

Optimism in Helsinki talks

VIENNA (AP) — East and West expressed optimism Friday that they could conclude a 21-month-old conference on security and cooperation in Europe by the end of the year. "We have achieved significant progress in recent weeks," Soviet chief delegate Yuri Kashin said at a news conference. The U.S. ambassador to the 35-nation meeting, Warren Zimmermann, was also optimistic, saying in his speech to the closed plenary that a successful result "is now in sight." Delegates from the United States, the Soviet Union, Canada and all European countries except Albania, have been meeting in Vienna since November 1986 to review compliance with the 1975 Helsinki accords on military security, economic cooperation and humanitarian issues, including human rights. They have also been drafting a final document to extend provisions laid down in the Helsinki final act. The conference adjourned Friday for a three-week recess to allow delegations to consult with their governments. Despite delegates' relative optimism about possibly ending the conference in October, they said some major points in the human rights field remained to be settled.

Jordan Times

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AROUND THE WORLD...

Murphy, Khaddam hold talks

DAMASCUS (Agencies) — U.S. envoy Richard Murphy met Friday with Vice President Abdul Halim Khaddam to discuss the Middle East conflict and the presidential elections in Lebanon, diplomatic sources said. The sources, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the talks in the mountain resort of Bloudan west of Damascus also covered relations between Syria and the United States. Murphy, an assistant secretary of state for Near East and South Asian affairs, arrived in Syria Thursday evening after talks with Lebanese officials in Beirut (see page 5).

S. Yemeni leader stops over in Damascus

DAMASCUS (R) — South Yemeni President Haider Abu Baker Al Attas made a stopover at Damascus airport Friday on his way to Czechoslovakia on an official visit. SANA news agency said. The agency said that Syrian Minister of State Nasser Qaddour met the Yemeni president at Damascus international airport. In a statement on arrival the Yemeni president stressed that relations between Syria and South Yemen were very strong.

North's trial delayed past election

WASHINGTON (R) — The judge in the Iran-contra case Friday ordered the trial of former White House aide Oliver North delayed until after the November presidential election because of a dispute over secret documents demanded by North. In a setback for prosecutors who wanted a quick trial, Federal Judge Gerhard Gesell gave North's lawyers until six days after the Nov. 8 election to file a detailed request on the secret documents they plan to use at trial (see page 8).

Bonn criticises 'Red Square pilot'

BONN (R) — The West German government Friday criticised daredevil flyer Mathias Rust for his elusive behaviour since returning home after the Soviet authorities released him from jail. "It would have been desirable if Rust had said publicly he hoped nobody would imitate his flight to Red Square," government spokesman Norbert Schaefer told a news conference. "It would also have been appropriate if Rust had put himself at the disposal of the press," Schaefer added. Rust was set free Wednesday after serving about a quarter of a four-year sentence for illegally flying a Cessna light plane over 750 kilometres of Soviet territory in May 1987 before landing near Moscow's Red Square. He returned to Frankfurt Wednesday night, avoiding the press, and was whisked away to a secret destination.

Jewish groups not to oppose Kuwait arms sale

WASHINGTON (AP) — Major American Jewish groups say they will not actively oppose a planned sale of U.S. jet fighters and missiles to Kuwait, indicating they do not believe it will harm Israel. The Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations said it is alarmed by increasing arms sales to Arab states but would not oppose a compromise arms sale to Kuwait worked out by the White House and Congress. "We do not intend to actively oppose the revised package of arms to Kuwait, recognising the conditions and guarantees negotiated by the government of the U.S.," the statement said.

Italy names 'super magistrate'

ROME (R) — Italy's government, facing a crisis in its war against the mafia, appointed a top anti-terrorist magistrate Friday as a powerful new high commissioner to combat the criminal society. A statement issued after a cabinet meeting said Domenico Sica, 56, who has for two decades headed many investigations into the worst extremist crimes in Rome, had been appointed high commissioner for the fight against the mafia. The previous high commissioner, Pietro Verga, was due to retire this month and the appointment of Sica, dubbed "super magistrate" by the press, was a clear response to public calls for an escalation of the war against the resurgent mafia.

Soviet citizen sentenced to death

MOSCOW (R) — A Soviet citizen has been sentenced to death for participating in Nazi massacres of the local population in the Ukraine during World War Two, the TASS said Friday. Alexander Posevin was accused of leading a battalion that killed 4,000 people in punitive raids in the area of Kharkov in 1942-43, TASS said. He personally shot 35 people. Posevin, who had been in the Soviet army, went over to the Nazi side in 1942, TASS said, and later tried to conceal his war record.

Baker to resign for Bush campaign

WASHINGTON (AP) — Treasury Secretary James Baker planned to resign Friday to become manager of the presidential campaign of Republican hopeful George Bush, sources said. Baker, whose resignation has been anticipated for several months, was expected to make the announcement after 2000 GMT in order to avoid any impact on U.S. financial markets, the sources said. They spoke on condition of anonymity. Bush chief of staff Craig Fuller confirmed Thursday that Baker would become campaign chief before the Aug. 15 start of the Republican convention in New Orleans.

4 injured in blast at British barracks

DUESSELDORF (R) — A bomb exploded at a British army barracks in West Germany Friday, injuring three soldiers and a civilian and investigators suspected it was the work of the Irish Republican Army (IRA). A spokesman for the West German prosecutor's office said initial reports pointed to an attack by the IRA. The guerrilla group has recently stepped up attacks on British targets both within and outside Britain (see page 8).

Yugoslav fire under control

BELGRADE (R) — Firemen fighting a major forest and brush fire around the Adriatic resort of Sibenik said Friday the blaze could still pose dangers even though it was now under control. Thousands of local people are helping to control the fire, which started Thursday morning. The fire passed through the suburb of Subisvac, destroying vegetation and damaging several apartments, he said. One fireman was seriously injured when his fire truck overturned and several people suffered minor injuries.

Prem bids sad farewell to nation

BANGKOK (AP) — Prem Tinsulanonda, retiring after eight years as Thailand's prime minister, bid a sad farewell to the nation Friday and urged his successor to continue his efforts to help the rural poor. Millionaire and former diplomat Chatichai Choonhavan was installed as prime minister Thursday with the backing of six coalition parties that took a majority of seats in parliament in the July 24 elections. Chatichai later told reporters his government would raise the nation's minimum wage, now about \$3 a day, and the incomes of the rural population.

Occupied territories civil servants to be retired

PLO team to visit Amman for talks

By Nermeen Murad
Jordan Times Staff Reporter with agency dispatches

AMMAN — Jordan and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) have established their first contact after Jordan's decision to sever formal ties with the occupied West Bank and agreed that a PLO delegation will visit Amman for discussions.

Prime Minister Zaid Rifai met with Abdul Razak Al Yahya, member of the PLO Executive Committee, Thursday and the two agreed that a top-level PLO team would visit Jordan soon.

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, reported. The news agency added that a date for the PLO's mission would be set soon.

It is believed that the team's expected talks here will aim at preparing the ground for a visit by PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat who headed crisis talks in Baghdad earlier this week over recent Jordanian moves which came in

compliance with PLO wishes and Arab summit resolutions.

Civil servants retired

Thursday's meeting followed the announcement of the latest Jordanian move in implementation of its decision to sever legal and administrative links with the West Bank. The announcement said classified and non-classified civil servants in the West Bank would be retired as of Aug. 16 but officials related to administrative and judicial affairs would keep their jobs.

According to the announcement, the government will continue to pay pension for all employees occupying positions originated before 1967 and others will be paid severance pay in line with the civil service regulations and their contract stipulations in the cases of those working in semi-independent institutions.

The status of classified employees with less than 20 years and more than 15 years in service will be frozen as of Aug. 16 until they complete 20 years in service from the date of their appointment so that they will be entitled for pension," the announcement said.

The services of employees who have been employed for less than 15 years "will be terminated as of Aug. 16, but will have their pension premiums reimbursed and they will also receive compensations at the rate of one month salary for every year in service," the announcement said.

Unclassified civil servants, employees of semi-independent in-

stitutions and those employed on contract basis, will have their services terminated as of Aug. 16, but they will also receive compensation and end-of-service regulations in force at their respective departments, the announcement, made after a meeting of the Council of Ministers, said.

These measures will not affect employees of religious departments and the Islamic chief justice's office, the announcement said. The Council of Ministers decided to exempt the employees of both these departments "in view of these departments' historical responsibilities in safeguarding Islamic places under Israeli occupation and supervising restoration work at the Dome of the Rock and the Al Aqsa Mosque," the announcement said.

According to a Jordanian official quoted by the Associated Press "out of the 21,200 civil servants who work in the West Bank and Gaza, there are 5,200 classified employees appointed before the 1967 Middle East war."

According to the official, salaries of the 5,200 amounted to \$1.5 million per month. While subsidies paid to the other 16,000 reached \$63 million in the past 17 months.

The decision was the third step undertaken by the Kingdom, following the dissolution of the Lower House of Parliament and cancellation of the five-year development plan for the occupied territories, and is seen by many as the most significant among the measures adopted by the Kingdom in line with Sunday's announcement by His Majesty King Hussein that Jordan was severing all legal and administrative links with the West Bank.

'Declaration of independence'

According to a report by AP from Jerusalem, underground Palestinian leaders may soon issue a "declaration of independence" designed to fill the power vacuum left by Jordan in the West Bank.

(Continued on page 2)



HM King Hussein

King contacts Arab leaders

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein Friday telephoned Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and exchanged views with him on a number of pan-Arab issues, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said.

On Thursday, the King had telephone conversations with Iraqi President Saddam Hussein and Syrian President Hafez Al Assad and exchanged views with the leaders about current Arab affairs and issues of common concern, Petra reported earlier. The agency did not give details.

Injured Israeli soldier dies after 18 months

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — An Israeli soldier allegedly run down by an Arab taxi driver in the occupied West Bank 18 months ago died of his injuries Friday and was buried, an army spokesman said.

Nir Biton remained unconscious in hospital after being injured.

The spokesman charged that an Arab taxi driver in Nablus, in the West Bank, "deliberately" ran down Nir and another soldier during a patrol in February 1987. The patrol's commander shot dead the driver, the spokesman added.

The incident occurred near the Askar refugee camp outside the occupied West Bank city of Nablus.

The alleged attack was during a month-long wave of Palestinian protests which preceded the current rebellion in the occupied lands.

Israel's news agency Itim released Friday new military figures on the Palestinian uprising in the occupied lands, citing 13,750 incidents involving the army in the last eight months.

Itim quoted army officials as saying there have been over 5,900 incidents of stone-throwing and 6,463 violent demonstrations since the last Dec. 8 start of the Palestinian uprising.

The army has registered 1,004 firebomb attacks, 252 arson, 57 incidents involving improvised bombs and roadside bombs, 17 grenade attacks, 29 attacks involving the use of knives and similar weapons and seven cases of shooting at soldiers, Itim reported.

It said that 183 Palestinians had been killed by army gunfire, of them 124 in the West Bank and 59 in the Gaza Strip. In addition, several deaths are being investigated, Itim said.

The AP count, based on United Nations statistics, puts the number of Palestinian fatalities at 236, while a Reuters count put the figure at 247.

Itim said that 2,100 Arabs had been "wounded by army gunfire and 5,500 have been jailed."

According to figures issued last month by the Palestinian-run Human Rights Information Centre, which did not provide a breakdown, about 36,000 Palestinians were hurt by gunfire, tear gas, rubber bullets and beatings. It estimated 6,000 suffered lasting injuries.

Itim quoted army officials as saying that 456 soldiers had been injured, of them 312 in the West Bank and 153 in Gaza. Israeli media reports say most of the soldiers have been injured by stones and a smaller number burned in firebomb attacks.

According to Itim, 282 Israelis had been injured, of them 265 in the West Bank and 17 in Gaza.

An army spokesman said he could not immediately verify Itim's figures. But official army figures released said 428 soldiers and 272 Israelis have been injured as of July 22.

In addition, one Israeli trooper and three others have been killed.

In another development, Israeli authorities will look for a new site for an archaeological dig denounced by Muslims because of its proximity to the Al Aqsa Mosque, a senior Israeli official said Friday.

Islamic Jihad reportedly disbanded; Rafsanjani said in charge of hostages

BEIRUT (AP) — A Beirut weekly magazine said Friday the pro-Iranian Islamic Jihad group that holds at least two American hostages was being disbanded.

The magazine Al Shiraa also said Iran's parliament Speaker Hashemi Rafsanjani has been put in full charge of the foreign hostages held in Lebanon.

Al Shiraa, which broke the story of U.S. secret arms sales to Iran in November 1986, cited no sources for the report, which could not be independently verified.

The magazine's previous stories about the hostages have not all been accurate.

Al Shiraa said Islamic Jihad "has been rapidly disintegrating after the arrest of one of its leaders, Abbas Zoreik, who headed a squad responsible for bank robberies in Beirut."

The magazine did not say when Zoreik was arrested by what it called "an Islamic party that has been patronising Islamic Jihad."

This appeared to be an allusion to Hizbollah (Party of God), which is widely believed to be the umbrella for various underground factions holding most of the 18 missing foreigners in Lebanon.

"It has since been revealed that a decision has been taken to disband Islamic Jihad," Al Shiraa said. It did not flatly say who took the decision, but the phrasing of

the report implied that Hizbollah's command was behind the reported move.

Al Shiraa said the Islamic party which arrested Zoreik was also after another Islamic Jihad leader, Hassan Izzeddine, who is sought by the United States on charge of taking part in the May 1985 hijack of a TWA jetliner to Beirut.

The magazine did not say why Hizbollah was cracking down on Islamic Jihad, which holds AP chief Middle East correspondent Terry A. Anderson, the longest held foreign hostage in Lebanon. Anderson, 40, was kidnapped in west Beirut March 16, 1985. Islamic Jihad also holds Thomas Sutherland, 56, acting dean of agriculture at the American University of Beirut, who was abducted June 9, 1985.

Anglican church envoy Terry Waite went missing in west Beirut Jan. 20, 1987 after leaving a seaside hotel for a rendezvous with Islamic Jihad, hoping to negotiate the release of Anderson and Sutherland. No group has claimed it holds Waite.

In a separate report, Al Shiraa said Iran's revolutionary patriarch Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini had put Rafsanjani in full charge of the hostage issue after making him the acting commander in chief of Iran's armed forces.

"The move abolished a commission that Khomeini formed last year to handle the hostage issue, which was made up of President Ali Khamenei, Rafsanjani, Revolutionary Guards Minister Mohsen Rafiq-Doust and Revolutionary Guards commander Mohsen Rezaei," Al Shiraa said.

Armenian activist determined to return home

PARIS (R) — A militant Armenian nationalist expelled from the Soviet Union on charges of fomenting dissent said Friday he would file an application for a visa to return and seek an open trial.

"Nobody has the right to exile me from my country," Pamiir Airikyan, 39, told a news conference. He added: "I think people like me are necessary for perestroika."

Perestroika is the Russian word for restructuring, to Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev's planned reforms that nationalist and ethnic groups have sought to use as support for their efforts to gain more autonomy.

Asked if he had confidence in Soviet courts which committed him to prisons, concentration camps, or internal exile for 18 years, Airikyan said he believed

"a public, open trial... would contribute to democratisation, and I think it's possible I could win."

Airikyan was a prominent figure in a drive to unite the Armenian enclave of Nagorno-Karabakh, which lies in the Soviet Republic of Azerbaijan, with Soviet Armenia.

After years of membership in the Armenian National Union Party, which sought to unify Soviet Armenia with the Armenian areas of Turkey, he founded the Union for National Autodetermination in 1987, which seeks a popular referendum on independence for Armenia.

He was arrested last March in the Armenian capital, Yerevan, and expelled after he refused, he said, to sign a petition requesting exile. The Soviet authorities say

Airikyan did sign a petition asking to be allowed to leave the country.

He arrived in France on a two-week transit visa last Monday. Airikyan said he would accept invitations to West Germany and the United States, but that his goal now was to seek legal methods for returning to the Soviet Union.

He said it would be "ridiculous" to seek asylum outside the Soviet Union, since he wanted to return to Armenia.

After protest rallies in Soviet Armenia and a long general strike in Nagorno-Karabakh, the Kremlin introduced a programme for economic and cultural development of the region, but it has ruled out any border changes.

"The situation in Armenia is very sad," said Airikyan. "Rallies

are forbidden, and all those who took part in them are under pressure at work."

But the dissident leader said he was not despondent. "More than 100,000 people gathered... on the day I was expelled. Five months ago I'd never have thought that was possible."

Interviewed later on French television, Airikyan said attacks on Armenians at Sumgait in Azerbaijan in March were "a pogrom" and called for an international commission to investigate.

Soviet authorities have acknowledged 32 deaths, but Airikyan said he had documentation from witnesses and medical personnel showing that more than 500 people were killed and many more injured.



A scene from the 3-part mini-series, "Menace unseen," starring Ian Ogilvy and Judy Bowkel on Fridays at 9:10

JTV Channel 2 Preview

Sat. — Aug. 6, 1988

West of Paradise

8:30 Mr. Belvedere

An old beachcomber's book of poems starts a search for the lost treasure of an 18th century pirate. At the end of the rainbow, it's said, there's a pot of gold worth millions. But where is it hidden? But the search for the key to the mystery leads to jealousy, superstition, and even

9:00 Alfred Hitchcock presents:

9:30 Variety Show

10:20 Feature Film

voodoo. It's a modern-day, romantic swashbuckler, set in a tropical paradise in the Indian Ocean. West of Paradise was shot entirely on the beautiful island of Mahé.

Sun. — Aug. 7, 1988

8:30 Check It Out

9:10 Doc. — Lost City of the



Zimbalist and Brosnan in "Remington Steele" on Thursdays at 9:10

Incas

Rumours of large, unexplored ruins lost amid the mountainous jungles north of Cuzco had been current in Peru since 1875. But it was not until 1911, when Hiram Bingham led a small expedition from Yale University along a newly-cut road through the Urubamba Valley, that archaeologists were first able to penetrate this unknown region.

10:20 Magnum

11:30 Fawley Towers

Mon. — Aug. 8, 1988

8:30 Perfect Strangers

9:10 Enemy at The Door

Drama series about life in the British Channel Islands under German occupation during World War II.

10:20 Feature Film

Mutiny on The Bounty

Starring:

Marlon Brando

Trevor Howard

Tue. — Aug. 9, 1988

8:30 Clarence

The spare bedroom ceiling falls in, forcing Travers and Clarence into the same room. More surprises arrive with the vicar's wife.

9:00 Campaign

Just 48 hours before polling day, the entire campaign is jeopardised by a scandal involving a junior minister and a construction company. In an attempt to divert attention away from the scandal, Sarah uses the Prime Minister's hostile reception in Birmingham to suggest he is in danger from a not mob.

10:20 Hunter

Crime of Passion

11:10 Perfect Spy

Wed. — Aug. 10, 1988

8:30 Three Up Two Down

9:00 Doc. — Space on Earth
Skyscrapers — Fight for Height
The continuing story of the rise of the skyscraper — with historian Charles Jencks and examples from New York and Chicago.

9:30 Twilight Zone

Dead Woman's Shoes

10:20 Always Afternoon

Always Afternoon is a story of teenage love — first love — between Freda, the daughter of the local baker and Franz, a young German violinist being held as a wartime internecine at the nearby jail. It is the story of her love, her loss and the blossoming of a young girl into a young woman. It is also the story of how this peaceful Christian community becomes hopelessly divided by the anger, the pain and the hatred caused by a war being fought thousands of miles away.

Thur. — Aug. 11, 1988

8:30 Throb

9:10 Remington Steele

10:20 Feature Film

Conspiracy of Love

Starring:

Robert Young

Drew Barrymore

Fri. — Aug. 12, 1988

8:30 Guinness Records

Two intrepid French mountaineers attempt an ascent of the world's most recognisable edifice — the Eiffel Tower on "The Spectacular World of Guinness Records." Shunning the Tower's 1,792 steps in favour of an outside assault, the two men climb the slick steel beams without mechanical assistance. Stiff winds make the ascent particularly treacherous. Most incredible of all, the mountaineers climb the Tower's 984 feet in only two hours 18 minutes.

9:10 Menace Unseen

10:20 Falcon Crest

11:10 Three's Company

PLO delegation to visit Amman for talks

(Continued from page 1)

territories.

The report said that a Palestinian source who demanded anonymity said a declaration of independence, although unlikely to be accepted by Israel, could pave the way for local contacts with Israeli authorities and get around Israeli opposition to dealing with the PLO. There was no further elaboration.

The source added that a declaration was a "serious option" and drafts were currently being studied by the united national leadership of the Uprising.

The proposed document would implicitly recognise Israel's right to exist, the source said, adding it calls for a state in "only part of Palestine," and not inside Israel's generally accepted boundaries.

'Government in exile'

The PLO might follow up the "declaration of independence" with the announcement of a government-in-exile, according to the London-based Mideast Mirror.

The announcement of a government-in-exile, an idea previously rejected by the PLO leadership on grounds that it could further create divisions among PLO factions, could be seriously considered at the planned session of the Palestine National Council (PNC), according to the Mideast Mirror. The PLO leadership has called for a PNC session, probably in Baghdad, in the next one month.

Earlier, a PLO official who spoke to the AP on condition he not be identified the idea of pushing through the long-aided government-in-exile would be discussed at the upcoming PNC meeting.

"I cannot say whether this PNC session will announce that or not, but such a government has become an urgent need," the official told an AP correspondent based in Abu Dhabi.

In an interview with the AP in Baghdad in January, Arafat was asked about the idea of forming a government-in-exile and said: "If it will facilitate the realisation of Palestinian aims, we can use it." Palestinian journalist Daoud Kuttub was the only Palestinian to openly support the idea of a "declaration of independence," endorsing the proposal in an article published in the Nazareth-based Al Sinaa weekly.

"We can ask the rest of the world to start recognising us and the dream will become reality without waiting for the solution to be served up to us on a silver platter at an international conference," the article said.

The underground leaders of the eight-month-old uprising in the occupied territories welcomed Jordan's decision to retire civil servants in the West Bank and described it as "the most important achievement of the intifada," agency reports said.

In the first reaction to the

recent Jordanian move, the underground leadership praised the decision to sever formal ties with the West Bank and said the move "reinforced the status of the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people," according to the leaflet, excerpts from which were carried by Reuters and AP.

Israeli officials quoted by the agencies said the Jordanian move "will bolster rather than diminish (Jordan's) standing in the occupied territories."

"I estimate that those Arab residents who read the (political) map correctly... their support for Jordan will be expressed more than it has until now," Israeli Police Minister Haim Bar Lev, a member of the Israeli Labour Party which advocates territorial compromise as the key to peace with the Arabs, was quoted as saying.

Calls for 'annexation'

But headline Israeli leaders are pressing the "national unity" government, which includes almost all political parties, to annex the West Bank. "This is now a historic moment for Israel to declare sovereignty in this area," nuclear scientist Yuva Neeman, a Tehiya party legislator, said Thursday.

She and other legislators said they would press their demands for annexation with Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, whose right-wing Likud bloc also contends that the West Bank is part of Israel, but Shamir has resisted the call, according to agencies.

Shamir, in an address to Jewish agency fundraisers, said Israel was committed to negotiating a settlement in the occupied areas under the terms of the 1979 Camp David accord with Egypt, agencies said.

Ariel Sharon, the right-wing trade and industry minister, is living up to his hawkish image. "We have an opportunity to take the areas that allow us to protect ourselves from danger in the future and that form a basis for national consensus," Sharon said on Israel Radio.

U.S. position

The United States, however, reaffirmed Thursday its opposition to Israeli annexation of the West Bank.

State Department spokes-

woman Phyllis Oakley told reporters: "We feel that there cannot be an acceptable political solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict on the basis of unilateral annexation of the occupied territories."

"The future status of the occupied territories should be worked out through negotiations between Israel and her Arab neighbours," she added.

Media reaction

Arab and foreign newspapers have widely described the Jordanian move as positive.

The Kuwaiti newspaper Al Watan said: "The decision ushers in a new phase in the Jordanian-Palestinian relationship." The Cairo-based Al Akhbar newspaper called for an Arab summit meeting to discuss the Palestinian question and to decide the shape of future Jordanian-Palestinian coordination.

The paper called on Arab countries to back Jordan's endeavours for enhancing the status of the PLO and support the Palestinian people in the occupied Arab lands.

Egypt's Al Ahram newspaper described the Kingdom's decision to sever ties with the occupied territories as "the most important Arab decision since 1948." It added that it was the first time that an Arab country initiates a "well studied plan" instead of "reactionary policies."

Ibrahim Nafa, editor-in-chief of Al Ahram, said in his daily column that King Hussein "has thrown a rock in the stagnant lake of peaceful solutions."

Al Jumhuriyah described the Jordanian measure as "the most important decision, the strongest shot, and the most intelligent tactic among those adopted vis-a-vis the Palestinian issue."

The Soviet Pravda newspaper said the King's decision to sever ties with the occupied territories had ended the existing dilemma for the Palestinians who faced their desire to establish a Palestinian state on the one hand and their administrative alliance with Jordan on the other.

In Rome, the Italian Communist Party said the Jordanian decision should prompt the European countries to make new contributions towards solving the Middle East problem and safeguarding the rights of the Palestinian people.

Quest for compromise over Gulf

(Continued from page 1)

U.N. military experts to Iran and Iraq.

Perez de Cuellar said he expected to give council members a detailed written report on Vadsset's mission next Wednesday.

Asked if he would be able to set a ceasefire date early next week, he said, without elaborating: "I think that next week I will be in a position to tell you something."

Iraq has been seeking Security Council guarantees for weeks. "The peace treaty should be guaranteed by the Security Council member states," acting For-

ign Minister Saadun Hamadi said July 20. "A ceasefire would not end the state of war and instability in the region."

It was not known what form the guarantees might take. The diplomatic sources said the five permanent Security Council members were considering various ways to guarantee Iraq's security and convince Iraq that Iran would not violate an agreement.

Aziz has met numerous Arab diplomats, and Arab ambassadors also have told the secretary-general that they share Baghdad's concern about Iranian intentions.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 77311-19

PROGRAMME ONE

16:00 Koran

16:20 Programme review

16:25 Children's programmes

17:00 Educational programme

18:00 News summary

18:05 Message from Iraq

18:15 Local series

19:10 Family programme

19:40 Programme review

20:00 News in Arabic

20:05 Local programme

21:30 Arabic play

22:00 News summary in Arabic

23:10 Play continued

PROGRAMME TWO

18:00 M'as Tu Vu

19:00 News in French

19:15 Un DB de plus

19:30 News in Hebrew

19:45 Medical Drags

20:00 News in Arabic

20:30 Mr. Behedens

21:00 Alfred Hitchcock: "A Siolen Heart"

21:30 Saturday Variety Show

22:00 News in English

22:20 Feature film: "West of Paradise"

RADIO JORDAN

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07:00 Morning Show

07:30 News

08:00 Morning Show

10:00 News Summary

10:05 Morning Show Contd.

11:00 Hitville: The Story of Motown

11:00 News Summary

12:05 Pop Session

13:00 News Summary

13:05 Pop Session

14:00 News Bulletin

14:20 Jordan Weekly

14:30 Concert Hour

15:00 News Summary

16:05 Instrumentals/Old favourites

17:00 Special Feature

17:30 Good Old Days

18:00 News Summary

18:05 Top Twenty

19:00 Newswatch/Music

20:00 The Young Sound

20:30 Discovering Music

21:00 The Musical in Review

22:00 Country Music

23:00 Classical Concerts

24:00 Close Down

BBC WORLD SERVICE

639, 720, 1323 KHz

07:00 Newsweek 07:30 Here's Humph!

07:45 Reflections 07:50 Financial News

08:00 World News 08:09 Twenty-Four Hours: News Summary 08:30 Personal View 08:45 The World Today 09:00 Newsweek 09:30 Meridian 10:00 World News 10:09 Twenty-Four Hours: News Summary 10:30 From the Weeklies 10:45 Network UK 11:00 World News 11:09 Reflections 11:15 A Jolly Good Show 12:00 World News 12:09 British Press Review 12:15 The World Today 12:30 Financial News followed by Sports Roundup 12:45 Personal View 13:00 News Summary followed by Here's Humph! 13:15 Letter from America 13:30 Feature 14:00 World News 14:09 News about Britain 14:15 Sportsworld 14:30 Meridian 15:00 Radio Newsweek 15:15 Multitrack 3 15:45 Sports Roundup 16:00 World News 16:09 Twenty-Four Hours: News Summary 16:30 Network UK 16:45 Sportsroundline. News Summary 18:00 Radio Newsweek 18:15 Sportsworld 19:00 World News 19:09 News about Britain 19:15 Sportsroundline 20:00 World News 20:09 Sports 20:15 The Ken Bruce Show 20:45 Sports Roundup 21:00 Newsweek 21:30 From Concert 21:45 World News 21:50 Twenty-Four Hours: News Summary 22:00 World News 22:09 News about Britain 22:15 Sportsroundline 22:30 World News 22:39 Twenty-Four Hours: News Summary 22:40 News Summary followed by A Life at the UN 00:15 The Idea of Europe 01:00 World News 01:09 From Our Own Correspondent 01:25 A Nature Notebook 01:40 Reflections 01:45 Sports Roundup 02:00 World News 02:09 Words 02:15 The Tony Myatt Request Show

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Goethe Institute .. 641999

Soviet Cultural Centre .. 644203

Spanish Cultural Centre .. 620409

Turkish Cultural Centre .. 639777

Haya Arts Centre .. 665195

Husseini Youth Ctr .. 66718116

Y.W.C.A. .. 641793

Y.W.M.A. .. 664251

Amman Municipal Library .. 637111

Univ. of Jordan Library .. 843555

Abdel Hamid Shoman Foundation .. 672541

Amman Municipal Library .. 637111

SERVICE CLUBS

The Amman Lions Club. Meetings every first and third Wednesday at the Regency Palace Hotel, 7:30 p.m.

Lions Philadelphi Club. Meetings every second and fourth Wednesday at the Amman Hotel, 7:30 p.m.

Philadelphi Rotary Club. Meetings every Wednesday at the Holiday Inn, 1:30 p.m.

Rotary Club. Meetings every Tuesday at the Intercontinental Hotel, 2:00 p.m.

Royal Automobile Club. Jabal Amman, Eighth Circle. Tel. 815261.

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) Information Department at the Queen Alia International Airport. Tel. (08) 53200-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

ROYAL JORDANIAN FLIGHTS (Terminal 1)

05:30 Singapore, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)

06:00 .. Agaba (RJ)

06:00 .. New Delhi (RJ)

06:10 .. Jeddah (add) (RJ)

06:30 .. Cairo (RJ)

06:30 .. Dhahran (RJ)

06:40 .. Kuwait (RJ)

06:50 .. Karachi, Doha (RJ)

06:50 .. Abu Dhabi, Bahrain (RJ)

08:20 .. Athens (RJ)

08:30 .. Copenhagen, Frankfurt (RJ)

08:30 .. New York, Montreal (RJ)

09:00 Los Angeles, Miami, Vienna (RJ)

09:00 .. Tripoli (RJ)

21:30 .. Moscow (RJ)

OTHER FLIGHTS (Terminal 2)

06:20 .. Belgrade (JU)

06:30 .. Baghdad (IA)

12:30 .. Muscat, Bahrain (GF)

14:00 .. Cairo (MS)

14:00 .. Tripoli (LI)

15:45 .. Riyadh (SV)

18:05 .. Rome (AZ)

19:00 .. Kuwait (KU)

21:15 .. Frankfurt, Damascus (LH)

22:35 .. Paris, Damascus (AF)

01:00 .. London, Cairo (BA)

PRAYER TIMES

04:20 .. Fajr

05:40 .. (Sunrise) Dhuhr

12:55 .. Dhuhr

16:23 .. 'Asr

19:35 .. Maghreb

21:03 .. 'Isha

MUSEUMS

"Children's Heritage and Science Museum". Fun and knowledge for all ages, plus a small planetarium at the Haya Arts Centre. Open all week 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Closed on Friday.

Foldore Museum: Jewelry and costumes over 100 years old. Also mosaics from Madaba and Jericho (4th to 18th centuries). The Roman Theatre. Amman. Opening hours: 9:00 a.m.-5 p.m. Year-round. Tel. 651760.

Jordan Archaeological Museum: Has an excellent collection of the antiquities of Jordan. Jabal Al Citadel (Citadel Hill). Opening hours: 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. (Fridays and official holidays 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.). Closed Tuesdays.

Jordan National Gallery: Contains a collection of paintings, ceramics, and sculptures by contemporary Islamic artists from most of the Muslim countries and a collection of paintings by 19th century orientalist artists. Muntashil, Jabal Luweibdeh. Opening hours: 10:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. and 3:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Closed Tuesdays. Tel. 630126.

Martyrs' Memorial (Military Museum): Collection of military memorabilia dating from the Arab Revolt of 1916. Sports City, Amman. Opening hours 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Closed Saturdays. Tel. 664240.

822605, Rev. Veli. The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints (Mormon) 815817, 821264

FOR THE TRAVELLER

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06:40 .. Kuwait (RJ)

06:50 .. Karachi, Doha (RJ)

06:50 .. Abu Dhabi, Bahrain (RJ)

08:20 .. Athens (RJ)

08:30 .. Copenhagen, Frankfurt (RJ)

08:30 .. New York, Montreal (RJ)

09:00 Los Angeles, Miami, Vienna (RJ)

09:00 .. Tripoli (RJ)

21:30 .. Moscow (RJ)

OTHER FLIGHTS (Terminal 2)

06:20 .. Belgrade (JU)

06:30 .. Baghdad (IA)

12:30 .. Muscat, Bahrain (GF)

14:00 .. Cairo (MS)

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15:45 .. Riyadh (SV)

18:05 .. Rome (AZ)

19:00 .. Kuwait (KU)

21:15 .. Frankfurt, Damascus (LH)

22:35 .. Paris, Damascus (AF)

01:00 .. London, Cairo (BA)

OTHER FLIGHTS (Terminal 2)

03:35 .. Belgrade (JU)

04:00 .. Damascus, Frankfurt (LH)

04:20 .. Baghdad (IA)

04:30 .. Cairo (MS)

14:30 .. Doha, Muscat (GF)

16:40 .. Kuwait (KU)

17:40 .. Riyadh (SV)

18:05 .. Damascus (AZ)

20:40 .. Kuwait (KU)

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

The weather is expected to be rather hot, with north-westerly moderate winds in Agaba, the winds will be northerly moderate and calm seas.

OTHER FLIGHTS (Terminal 2)

06:20 .. Belgrade (JU)

06:30 .. Baghdad (IA)

12:30 .. Muscat, Bahrain (GF)

14:00 .. Cairo (MS)

14:00 .. Tripoli (LI)

15:45 .. Riyadh (SV)

18:05 .. Rome (AZ)

19:00 .. Kuwait (KU)

21:15 .. Frankfurt, Damascus (LH)

22:35 .. Paris, Damascus (AF)

01:00 .. London, Cairo (BA)

DEPARTURES

ROYAL JORDANIAN FLIGHTS (Terminal 1)

07:45 .. Agaba (RJ)

08:00 .. Tripoli (RJ)

11:05 .. Moscow (RJ)

12:40 .. Amsterdam, Paris (RJ)

12:10 .. Athens (RJ)

12:30 .. Frankfurt, Madrid (RJ)

12:40 .. Govaia, Madrid (RJ)

13:00 .. Vienna, New York (RJ)

Dr. Joseph Mseih .. 770560

Firas pharmacy .. 661912

Fewas pharmacy .. 778336

Al Asena pharmacy .. 637055

Nairoki pharmacy .. 623672

Al Salam pharmacy .. 636730

Yacoub pharmacy .. 644945

Shmeisan pharmacy .. 637660

Jordan Television .. 773111

Radio Jordan .. 774111

Water Authority .. 680100

Jordan Electricity Authority .. 815615

Electric Power .. 648411, 636301

Company .. 648411, 636301

RJ Flight Information .. 08-53200

Queen Alia Int. Airport .. 08-52000

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:

Husseini Medical Centre .. 81381332

Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn .. 6424106

Akileh Maternity, J. Amn .. 6424102

Jabal Amman Maternity .. 642362

Mablas, J. Amman .. 636140

Palestine, Shmeisan .. 64417114

Shmeisan Hospital .. 649131

University Hospital .. 845845

Al-Muasher Hospital .. 6672799

The Islamic, Abdali .. 66617377

Al-Ahli, Abdali .. 6661446

IRBID:

Dr. Shidiah Al Zagh .. (—)

Al Sharaa' pharmacy .. 985238

ZARQA:

Dr. Akram Haddad .. (—)

Khalifah pharmacy .. 985417

Italian, Al-Mubajreen .. 7770103

Al-Basir, J. Ashrafieh .. 77511126

Army, Marka .. 89161115

Queen Alia Hospital .. 60240495

Amal Hospital .. 674155

ZARQA:

Zarqa Govt. Hospital .. (09)963323

Zarqa National Hospital .. (09)991071

Ibn Sina Hospital .. (09)986732

IRBID:

Princess Basma Hospital .. (02)275555

Greek Catholic Hospital .. (02)272725

Ibn Al Nafes Hospital .. (02)274700

AQABA:

Princess Haya Hospital .. (03)314111

Civil Defence Directorate .. 661111

Civil Defence Directorate .. 661111

Rescue .. 630341

Civil Defence Emergency .. 199

Rescue Police .. 192, 621111, 637777

Fire Brigade .. 198, 891228

Blood Bank .. 778303

Highway Police .. 843402

Traffic Police .. 39141

Public Security Directorate .. 630321

Hotel Complaints .. 605800

Price Complaints .. 661176

Water and Sewerage .. 661176

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:

Dr. Hisham Abu Arqoub .. 778773

Dr. Dawoud Al Samhour .. 652642

Dr. Mousa Bashir .. 716224

Complaints .. 897467

Amman Municipality .. 897467

Complaints .. 787111

Telephone Information (Directory assistance) .. 12

Overseas Calls .. 17

Central Amman Telephone Repairs .. 623101

Abdali Telephone Repairs .. 661101

Ministry of Information .. 641467

Ministry of the Interior .. 663111

Ministry of Tourism .. 642311

Driving Licences Dept. .. 892283

Foreigners and Frontiers Dept. .. 892408

Meteorology Dept. .. 892408

Public Security Headquarters .. 630321

Telecommunications Corporation .. 638001

King congratulates UAE

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Friday cabled congratulations to UAE President Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahayan on the anniversary of assuming authority in the UAE. In his cable, the King wished the UAE president good health and wished the UAE people would achieve their desired aspirations under his leadership.

NATIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

JUST WORKSHOP ENDS: A three-day workshop on using computers for medical purposes ended at Jordan University of Science and Technology (JUST) near Irbid on Thursday. A total of 23 participants from JUST's teaching staff, as well as doctors and specialists from the Princess Basma Government Hospital in Irbid took part in the workshop. It was designed to orient participants on the use of computers, especially in diagnosing medical cases and in monitoring the history of patient's illnesses.

DAJANI THANKS PETRA: Interior Minister Rajai Dajani, chairman of the Jordanian Football Federation, expressed his appreciation to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, for its coverage of the Pan-Arab Soccer Championship, held in Amman last month under the patronage of His Majesty King Hussein. Dajani said in a message to Petra Director Ali Safadi, that the coverage of the championship events contributed greatly to its success.

10 INJURED IN ROAD ACCIDENTS: Ten people were injured in a road accident involving two taxis in the Madaba district. The victims were treated at Madaba Government Hospital following the accident which occurred Thursday evening.

2 SUMMER CAMPS CONCLUDE: A four-week summer camp ended in Tafleh Thursday, with 300 participants having organised an exhibition displaying samples of handicraft work and paintings. Another summer camp ended in Koura district where the 552 students also set up an exhibition of their work.

NAOUR ELECTIONS: The district governor of Naour set up a committee to register voters for the coming municipal elections which will take place in November. The district governor of Bani Kinana in the Irbid Governorate also formed a committee for municipal elections which are scheduled for Nov. 6.

HMOUD MEETS KUWAITI ENVOY: Minister of Agriculture Marwan Hmoud met here Thursday with Kuwait's ambassador to Jordan to discuss Jordanian-Kuwaiti cooperation in agricultural fields.

STUDENTS VISIT AIR BASE: Students from the University of Jordan studying military sciences visited the King Hussein Air Base College Thursday and were briefed on its history and the base's responsibilities. The students toured the base and inspected various weapons and equipment used there.

LECTURES BY JEA OFFICIALS: Two senior engineers from the Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA) delivered lectures to officers from the Civil Defence Department (CDD) on preventing electric power accidents. The lectures also covered JEA's plans for the electrification of rural areas in Jordan, the distribution of networks, and cooperation between Jordan, Egypt and Syria in boosting the capacity of the national grids and power distribution.

SLAUGHTERED SHEEP DISTRIBUTED: Sheep slain in Mecca for 'Eid Al Adha are being distributed to needy families in Jordan and other Arab and Islamic countries under a programme designed in cooperation with the Saudi Arabian authorities. At least 2,508 sheep have been distributed here under this programme by the Ministry of Social Development.

Youth Ministry aide visits Ma'an, Aqaba

MA'AN (Petra) — The Youth Ministry's Secretary General Mohammad Kheir Mamasser Thursday toured youth centres and clubs in Ma'an and Aqaba meeting with their directors to discuss youth activities.

Mamasser also met with Ma'an Governor Jamal Momani to discuss ways to support these clubs and promote youth and sports activities especially in Ma'an.

Mamasser told the Jordan News Agency, Petra, following the tour that his visit was de-

signed to closely study youth and sports activities in the southern regions of Jordan.

The Ministry of Youth made plans to update youth programmes in their clubs and centres, expanding their capacity from 3,000 to 15,000 youths between the ages of 12 and 18, Mamasser noted.

He said the ministry is now appropriating plots of land in various districts to set up youth centres and youth camps.

WHAT'S GOING ON EXHIBITIONS

- * Summer Club exhibitions in Zarqa.
- * Art exhibition by Khalid 'Atiyah at the Zarqa Club for the Deaf and Dumb.



Health Minister Zaid Hamzeh Thursday visits Zarqa where he opened a new health centre (Petra photo)

Hamzeh opens Zarqa health centre

ZARQA (Petra) — The Health Ministry wishes to promote health care for school children and is going ahead with plans to increase children's inoculation programmes in various parts of the Kingdom, Health Minister Zaid Hamzeh said Thursday.

The minister, who was speaking at the opening ceremony of a new health centre in Zarqa, said Health Ministry inoculation and medical examination programmes now cover almost 98 per cent of the Kingdom's schools, with vaccination programmes being available at all health centres.

Dr. Hamzeh said his ministry has plans for opening many other

comprehensive health centres in the Kingdom in an attempt to meet the World Health Organisation's objective of providing health care for all citizens by the year 2000.

"Because of the comprehensive health centres in the country, hospitals are now dealing with only five per cent of the total number of patients requiring medical care," the minister said.

The acting director of the Health Department in Zarqa said medical services in the governorate have been improved and expanded resulting in 27 health centres which offer general medical services, mother and

child care and other basic medical facilities to some 400,000 registered inhabitants.

He said the mortality rate among children has dropped to 35 per one thousand as a result of improved medical services especially in treating diarrhoea. "The continual testing of water samples to ensure that drinking water is pure and fit for human consumption also contributed," he said.

Following the opening ceremony the minister, accompanied by local officials, toured different sections of the new centre which alone offers services to 15,000 people.

67,000 expected to seek jobs by the end of 5-year plan

AMMAN (J.T.) — By the end of the current 1986-1990 five-year development plan, the number of job seekers in the Kingdom is expected to reach 67,000, according to the Ministry of Labour's Secretary General Saleh Khasawneh.

Addressing a public meeting on problems in engineering, held at the Professional Association Complex Thursday, Khasawneh said many of the unemployed of the future, like today, will be university educated, including engineers whose numbers are now increasing.

In reviewing the Jordanian labour market, Khasawneh said the Ministry of Labour's figures

indicate the presence of 150,000 non-Jordanian workers employed in the Kingdom, while 350,000 Jordanians are employed in Arab countries especially the Gulf states.

There is increasing demand for people to work in agricultural and service sectors, which are mostly filled by non-Jordanians, Khasawneh noted.

He said by the end of the five-year plan there will be more demand for maintenance technicians and those skilled in advanced technology, rather than traditional graduates of engineering schools.

Dr. Ahmad Atwan, a member of the Jordanian Engineers Asso-

ciation (JEA) council, told the meeting that university graduates far more exceed the number of graduates from polytechnic and community colleges in Jordan, and "the Kingdom therefore continues to face a shortage in the number of assistant engineers and others who graduate from polytechnic schools."

Atwan said that half of the country's 20,000 engineers are specialised in civil work while the rest are specialised in mechanical, electrical and other fields.

He expressed the opinion that the coming years will witness increasing demand for technicians to be employed in maintenance and high-tech fields.

VTC to start free training programme

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Labour's Vocational Training Corporation (VTC) has embarked on a programme of free vocational training to all able-bodied Jordanians seeking employment in the construction business, hotel management, sales and ready-made clothing industries, according to the Corporation's annual statistical statement released here Friday.

The statement said training for employment in these sectors lasts between two and five months, and offers the participants the sufficient skills required.

VTC training programmes are being offered through its 10 major centres and several smaller ones throughout the Kingdom in cooperation with 2,200 businesses, companies and factor-

ies, the statement said.

The statement, marking the VTC's 11th anniversary, said last year the corporation's centres in the Kingdom offered training to 11,000 apprentices under a comprehensive programme for young men and women, including those who completed preparatory schools but failed to be admitted to secondary schools.

In implementation of the VTC's five-year development plan, four additional vocational training centres will be established in the Kingdom in the coming two years, to offer training to young men and women and prepare them for local and Arab labour markets, the statement noted.

VTC centres offer young men and women training in the follow-

ing fields: auto mechanics, jewelry, electrical trades, air-conditioning, plumbing and sanitation, decorating, building, hotel management, dress making, and central heating, the statement said.

These courses last two years and provide the trainees with sufficient expertise in theory and practice, the statement added.

In addition, the VTC has organised 30 special training courses for supervisors in factories, orienting them on general occupational safety measures, the statement noted.

It said the VTC cooperates with institutions in the Jordanian private and public sector and has strong ties with Arab and international organisations.

Abu Qoura condemns Israel's deportation of eight Palestinians

AMMAN (Petra, J.T.) — The Jordan National Red Crescent Society (JNRCS) condemned Israel's deportation of eight Arab citizens from the West Bank and Gaza Strip as a flagrant violation of the Geneva Conventions.

JNRCS President Ahmad Abu Qoura said in a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, that the deportation of the eight Palestinians to Lebanon, earlier this week, was clearly in breach of provisions contained in the Geneva Conventions which prohibit the displacement of people in occupied territories by force to another land under any circumstances.

Israel on Tuesday expelled six citizens from the West Bank and two from the occupied Gaza Strip for their involvement in organising and carrying out demonstrations.

"Friendly countries, including Israel's closest ally, the U.S., condemned the expulsions as

illegal under international law, citing the Geneva Conventions stipulation on military occupation."

Lebanon said it would lodge a complaint with the U.N. Security Council against the latest expulsions of Palestinians to the Bekaa Valley.

Dr. Abu Qoura said Israel was among the signatories of the 1951 Geneva Conventions, but the Jewish state has violated provisions since its occupation of Arab territories following the 1967 war with the Arab states.

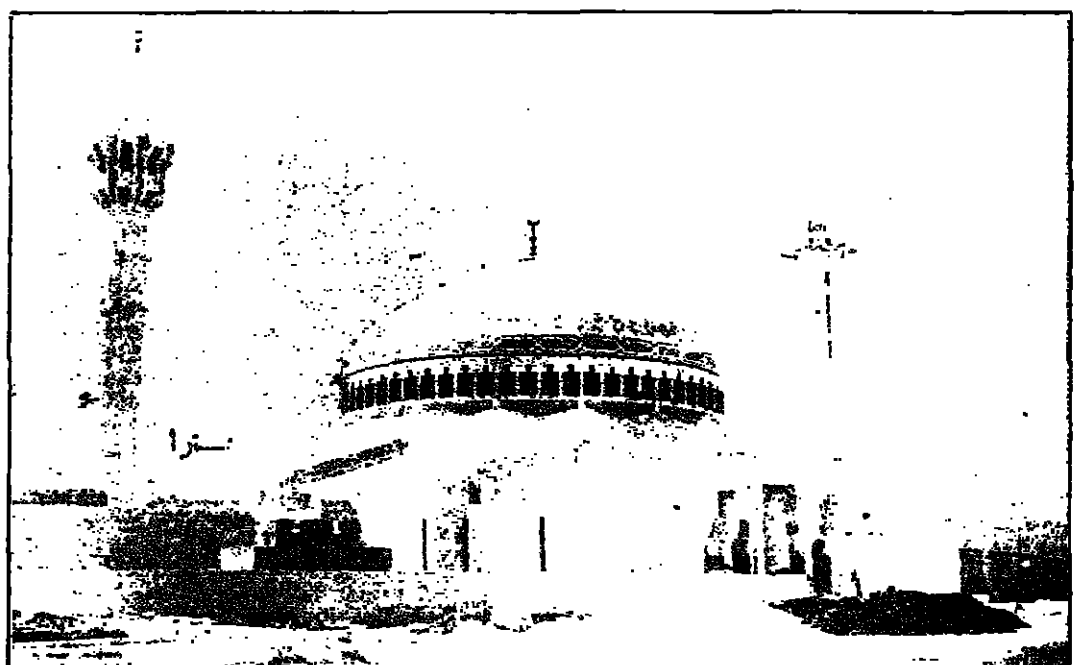
"The Israeli authorities continue to violate all the Geneva agreements especially during the ongoing uprising by killing, torturing, detaining people, and de-



Ahmad Abu Qoura

molishing Arab homes in the occupied Arab territories," Abu Qoura said.

Abu Qoura called on the international community "to exert pressure on Israeli authorities to implement the Geneva Conventions in dealing with the Arab population under occupation rule."



King Abdullah Ibn Al Hussein Mosque under construction in Abdali (Petra photo)

King Abdullah Mosque to be inaugurated during October

AMMAN (Petra, J.T.) — The King Abdullah Ibn Al Hussein Mosque at Abdali in Amman will be inaugurated during the Kingdom's celebrations of the Prophet Mohammad's birthday in October under the patronage of His Majesty King Hussein, according to an official statement issued Friday.

The statement quoted the project's director Abdul Rahman Hashem as saying that a tender will be awarded to a local firm in the coming two weeks to carry out the electrical part of the project and to provide furniture for the internal sections of the mosque.

He said the implementation of this project, in addition to the designs and the construction of the second phase of the project, amounts to JD 1.5 million.

Hashem expects that the whole project will be completed by the end of October for the inaugura-

tion ceremony.

Hashem said the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs, which is sponsoring the project, will later embark on a third phase which entails the construction of a multi-purpose hall on a plot of land adjacent to the mosque complex towards the Parliament Building.

This hall, he said, will be offered to the public to use for weddings, charitable exhibitions and other occasions.

In addition, the hall will house a permanent exhibition displaying progress in the restoration work on Al Aqsa Mosque.

Ministry issues results of 3rd preparatory exams

AMMAN (Petra) — Education Ministry Secretary General Dr. Munther Al Masri Friday said the Ministry's Examination Directorate had issued the results of the examination admitting students to pursue studies at the secondary stage for the scholastic year 1987/88.

He said students who took the examinations can pick up their results from their respective

schools beginning Saturday at 10:00 a.m.

He said that the 84.5 per cent have passed the exams, so that out of 63,834 students a total of 53,945 students passed.

He added that students who took the examination on private bases can pick up their results from the Examination Directorate through which they sat for the examination.

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Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation. Established 1973

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ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS



Friday's

Al Ra'i: Committed towards Palestine

IN response to the desires of the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, and Arab countries for severing legal and administrative ties with the West Bank, the council of ministers decided to terminate the services of employees working at Jordanian departments in the occupied lands. But another decision was taken to safeguard the rights and compensation of these civil servants who will be duly compensated and remunerated. The Jordanian government excluded employees working for religious affairs departments and those employed by the chief Islamic justice office as they are serving the Islamic heritage and culture in the holy land. Despite Jordan's decision to cut ties with the West Bank, the government was keen on protecting the rights of employees there and to take measures for safeguarding the status of those who continue to serve Islamic causes. This is a clear show of Jordan's keenness on maintaining its support for the people of the occupied Palestinian land. This also underlines the fact that regardless of any measures related to the severing of ties with the West Bank, Jordan will continue to hold on to its national commitments and will honour its national responsibilities towards Palestine.

Al Dustour: PLO's responsibility

JORDAN which responded favourably to the wishes and desires of the PLO and Arab states by severing ties with the West Bank now looks forward to witnessing the organisation shouldering its national responsibilities towards the Palestinian people. Jordan now expects from the PLO to take measures that would prove, in word and deed, its drive to enhance the Palestinian people's steadfastness and struggle, and prevent the Zionists from uprooting the Arab inhabitants from their homeland. Jordan realises too well Zionism's ambitions and evil objectives in the Arab lands and therefore it declared its intention to continue supporting the Palestinians despite the severing of ties with the West Bank as requested by the PLO. Jordan, acting in implementation of the Great Arab Revolt ideals that advocated unity and freedom for all Arabs, will continue to help the Arab people of Palestine to repel aggression and thwart Zionists' objectives. It is hoped that the PLO will now move fast and employ all means available to it to help the Palestinians in cooperation with Jordan.

Sawt Al Shaab: Wise, courageous move

ARAB and Palestinian circles have praised Jordan's measures vis-a-vis the West Bank as wise and courageous because they came as in response to the desires of the Arab countries and the PLO. Jordan had to be faithful to the Arab Nation and therefore took this sound and bold step in order to re-build its relations with the PLO on a sound and solid base. The Jordanian move angered the enemies of the Arab Nation but brought relief to the Arabs and the PLO, and added to Jordan's credibility and boosted its status within the Arab World. Jordan which decided Thursday to terminate the services of West Bank employees has shown keenness on protecting these employees' rights as it decided to offer compensation and pension to them. Jordan has thus shown to the world that it will continue to honour its commitments to the Palestinian people despite the recent measures which came at the request of the PLO. This country has shown beyond doubt that it is ready to shoulder its national commitments at all times.

Thursday's

Al Ra'i: Commitment to Arab causes

REACTIONS to King Hussein's speech to the nation last week were unanimous in underlining the importance of Jordan's national role over the past years and the Kingdom's significant status as catalyst for pan-Arab solidarity. Jordan's national role and its continued support for the Palestinian people stem from the mission of the Great Arab Revolt and its solid commitment to serve all Arab causes. This fact was reaffirmed to the world by the King's speech which reiterated Jordan's continued backing for the Palestinians and their just struggle despite the country's decision to sever legal and administrative ties with the West Bank. Though Jordan's decision was met with relief and satisfaction by Arab circles, it was cause for anger within the Israeli political circles, which saw in it a new Jordanian measure designed to bolster the uprising in the occupied Arab territories and a means for boosting inter-Arab solidarity. A fact that Israel and the rest of the world realise is that the Jordanian-Palestinian unity will continue regardless of the administrative measures taken in response to certain circumstances, and that Jordan will maintain its full backing for the Palestinian people in their struggle to regain their homeland and their rights.

Al Dustour: Jordan remains committed to peace

JORDAN's recent decision to sever legal and administrative ties with the West Bank has shaken Washington's policies in the Middle East as much as it has drawn angry and conflicting reactions from inside Israel. The decision will no doubt prompt Washington to reassess its own policies which have hitherto been hinged on biased and unlimited support for Israel with total disregard to Arab views. The Jordanian move upset the Israeli leadership and added to its embarrassment which has been prevailing ever since the outbreak of the Palestinian uprising some eight months ago.

Marwan Muasher

Jordanians are not accustomed to going to court

AROUND this time last year the Ministry of Higher Education issued a highly controversial regulation. In effect, the ministry would not accredit any degree from a non-Jordanian university obtained by a Jordanian who has not obtained a high enough average in the tawjihi that year to allow him admittance in his field of study to a Jordanian university. That in effect meant that such Jordanians could not work in the public sector, where such accreditation is needed. A big uproar followed, in which many prominent educationists protested against the regulation. Some Parliament members protested on the grounds that the regulation is against the principles of the constitution, guaranteeing the freedom of education for all Jordanians. The Ministry of Higher Education held on, however, arguing that it is not preventing Jordanians from studying abroad, but that it reserves the option of not allowing them to work in the public sector. Overnight, the tawjihi examination, with its good and bad points, became an international standard of excellence for Jordanians.

A contentious Jordanian who is also a lawyer, did something that few Jordanians have been accustomed to doing. He took the Ministry of Higher Education to court. His argument was simple, yet pragmatic. Instead of going through philosophical arguments, he simply maintained that the law of the ministry gave it the mandate to dictate acceptance levels for universities in Jordan, not outside of it.

As such, it had no business issuing regulations that apply to non-Jordanian institutes of learning. The court agreed.

Another interesting thing happened. Suddenly, the Ministry of Higher Education backed off from its initial stand, and issued a statement maintaining that its decision was only a "recommendation" that need not be applied. The minister, completely evading the issue, stated that not a single case has arisen where the "recommendation" applies and where the ministry has refused accreditation. Regardless, what is important is that the minister had no choice but to agree with the court. The end result is a triumph, even if it is a small one, for what should be a system of checks and balances in Jordan.

The Jordanian constitution guarantees the right of Jordanians to take the government to court. It is useful to read chapter six, article 102 of the constitution in this regard: "Courts have jurisdiction over all persons in all civil and criminal cases including those by or against the government except for cases relating to religious or special courts as dictated by the constitution."

The constitution is clear. Just as it demands duties of its citizens, it puts checks on government to ensure proper participation. Yet Jordanians are not accustomed to going to courts, let alone against the government. They have this notion that to do that is to put them

in a no-win situation. Thus, several laws have passed in the past despite the clear disapproval of a wide section of society, because parliament was not effective in putting these laws in court, because Jordanians were reluctant to contest these laws in court.

This incident, I hope, will help to change the current state of affairs. While it is certainly not the first of its kind, it is one of the few contested in court with such far reaching consequences.

More importantly than the decision itself is the ability of our courts to disagree with the government and the ability of our government to respect the court's decision. Even if the minister's statement was diplomatically made, the government backed off from its initial position without much fuss.

This was clearly a case of the Jordanian constitution working in action. I hope it will clear the misconception in people's minds that they cannot contest decisions that they disapprove of, because the constitution certainly gives them the right to do so. The mere feeling, regardless of which argument wins, that decisions made by the executive branch could be contested is comforting.

The decision taken in court recently is certainly a triumph for everybody. It is a triumph for the Jordanian public, whose right to education was preserved, and it is a triumph for the government, who accepted the decision of the court. Above all, it is a triumph for Jordan.

TALKING STRAIGHT

Muslims reap spiritual rewards of pilgrimage

By Ahmed Shawki
Reuters

CAIRO — They came from the corners of the earth — bareheaded, simply clothed in white robes, their links to the outside world severed by a simple act of faith.

Braving daytime temperatures as high as 45 degrees centigrade they trod the same stony paths to Islam's holiest places as those walked by the first Muslims more than 14 centuries ago.

This correspondent was among more than a million people who travelled to Saudi Arabia for this year's Haj. The pilgrimage is a time of spiritual fulfilment, a chance to get closer to God.

Some felt they had done just that.

Bareheaded pilgrims, faint from the blistering noon sun at Mount Arafat near the holy city of Mecca at the climax of the pilgrimage on July 23, saw thick clouds cover the sky.

An unusually cool breeze followed.

"This is a miracle... God has accepted our plea for forgiveness," Egyptian theologian Ahmed Omar Hashem told a group of pilgrims.

"God has invited us to come here seeking his mercy and he is now telling us that it has been given to us," he said, breaking into tears.

His words quickly spread among the throngs of pilgrims and thousands joined in prayers.

Many of the thousands were carried up and down the rocky slopes of Mount Arafat in some of the 800,000 cars and buses called in to ferry the faithful.

Saudi Arabia built nine different well-paved highways to the holy places but such was the volume of traffic that it sometimes moved at walking pace.

Helicopters hovered overhead — noisy guardians of Islam's holy places, ever-vigilant for signs of disorder among the tide of humanity beneath their swirling rotors.

An army of cleaners moved into action each day to keep streets clean with millions of gallons of antiseptic sloshed around the sidewalks where thousands of pilgrims camped.

More than 20,000 men supervised health care work and hundreds of ambulances and mobile hospitals were scattered among the cities of tents.

The Haj unites rich and poor, young and old in a celebration of their faith.

It is one of the five pillars of Islam — others are the profession of faith in God and his Prophet Muhammad, praying, fasting dur-

ing the month of Ramadan and giving alms.

The Haj starts with the tawaf (encircling), when pilgrims walk round Islam's holiest shrine, Al Ka'ba, seven times, going anti-clockwise.

They then turn to pray towards the gold and silver encrusted Ka'ba washed with rosewater by a member of the Saudi royal family.

The climax is on Mount Arafat when the pilgrims gather for the wuquf (standing), held on the ninth day of the Islamic month of Thul-Hijjah. Later pilgrims visit the Prophet Muhammad's grave at Medina.

The pilgrims faced tight security when they arrived in Saudi Arabia for this year's Haj.

The kingdom was determined to prevent a repeat of last year's violence between security forces and Iranian pilgrims in which 402 people, mainly Iranians, were killed.

Passports and visas were carefully checked, pilgrims were searched and luggage subjected to close scrutiny. Later, as the pilgrims entered the grand mosque in Mecca to pray they were searched again. Security was both visible and covert.

Uniformed police were conspicuous everywhere — plainclothes detectives were harder to spot until an incident revealed them.

A thief was surrounded by plainclothes men after stealing a wallet from a pilgrim.

"We cannot afford a single incident that mars the Haj season or repetition of last year's bloody clashes," one khaki-dressed policeman said.

"The absence of Iranians was a great help," he said.

Iran decided to boycott the Haj after Saudi Arabia set limits on the numbers of pilgrims from all countries who would be allowed to perform the pilgrimage.

The limit would have restricted to 45,000 the numbers of Iranian pilgrims, compared to 150,000 last year.

Government officials speaking privately said they were relieved at the absence of Iranians but publicly announced Iranian pilgrims were welcome.

"We are sorry for the absence of Iranian pilgrims this year but their government is to blame," Minister of Pilgrimage Abdul Wahhab Al Wasie told television viewers.

Many pilgrims seemed pleased at the Iranians' absence.

"By staying away they gave us a peaceful Haj," a taxi driver said.

U.S. arms: Why Arabs shop elsewhere

By Donald Neff

FOR ARAB states, it is one of the galling facts of political life in Washington that Israel's hold over the Congress is so complete that the Arabs can't even give their money away. Unlike Israel, which gets its American weapons free of charge, the Arabs pay cash on the barrelhead. This they have shown themselves more than willing to do, at great profit to U.S. companies, but still Congress balks. Since 1978, American legislators of both parties have done all they could to obstruct, prevent and defy successive administrations' attempts to sell weapons to the Arabs. It's no wonder that Saudi Arabia finally got sick of such tactics and turned to Britain early in July with what is being called the arms deal of the century — as much as \$30 billion.

No one outside Israel's lobby was blaming the Saudis for doing what they thought they had to do to acquire the weaponry they want. In the recent British case, this includes about 50 sophisticated Tornado combat aircraft, 60 Hawk trainer planes, 50 Black Hawk helicopters, 6 mine-sweepers, numerous other items and construction of airbases in Saudi Arabia. All this will be purchased without the humiliating restrictions that Congress routinely imposes on America's arms deals with Arab states.

These restrictions often take the form of demeaning demands on cash customers. An acute case came last year when Congress approved the sale of a paltry \$7m worth (Israel receives \$1.8 billion in annual American grants to its defence establishment) of Stinger shoulder-held anti-aircraft missiles to Bahrain. But Congress then imposed stringent restrictions: 1) the sale would involve no more than 70 missiles and 14 launchers; 2) missiles and launchers had to be stored separately; 3) U.S. officials must be allowed spot checks; 4) the president must report to Congress every three months on the availability of alternative air-defence systems; 5) Pentagon plans had to be dropped to sell Stingers to Oman; 6) Stingers could be sold to no other Gulf State; and 7) Bahrain must agree to resell the missiles and launchers to the United States within 18 months. Presumably by that time the Pentagon would have found an alternative weapon, but even if it hadn't, Bahrain would have to return the missiles.

In the same year, 1987, 64 senators, led by that redoubtable defender of Israel, Alan Cranston (D-Cal.), once known as an advocate of human rights but now a major recipient of pro-Israeli campaign contributions, wrote to President Reagan urging him to abandon a proposed \$1.4 billion arms sale to Saudi Arabia. The package included 12 F-15s, 1,600

Maverick anti-tank missiles and M-60 tanks. In the letter, the lawmakers charged that Saudi Arabia continued to help finance the PLO and had not helped in the peace process, therefore it could not be trusted with U.S. arms. It was only after lengthy negotiations with key senators that a compromise was reached — at Riyadh's expense. The administration agreed to drop the Maverick missiles from the Saudi package in return for the Senate's approval to sell 12 F-15s. However, it was agreed that the warplanes would be kept in the United States and sent to Saudi Arabia only as replacements for losses from the Saudi's existing force of 60 F-15s.

"Senator Percy was defeated in 1984 because of a national campaign by Israel's supporters against his vote in favour of Awacs for Saudi Arabia"

That was only the latest in a series of studied Congressional humiliations for the Arabs, and particularly Saudi Arabia. The previous year Saudi Arabia had to sit by and watch both houses of Congress for the first time in history turn down a measly \$354 arms package, forcing President Reagan to veto the rejection. It was only after spirited fight that the White House convinced 34 senators — the absolute minimum needed to overturn his veto and allow the sale to go through. In 1985, Reagan had to drop a proposed sale of Stinger missiles to Saudi Arabia and Jordan when 51 senators, once again led by Cranston, wrote a letter strongly opposing the sale. The previous year Reagan had to invoke his emergency security powers to bypass Congressional opposition to sell 400 Stingers and 200 launchers to Saudi Arabia.

The really portentous battle, however, occurred in 1981. It was so bruising that it surely alerted Saudi Arabia that it could not long depend on Washington for its weapons and had to seek alternative suppliers. On March 6 of that year the administration announced it planned to sell military arms and sophisticated Awacs planes to Saudi Arabia. Israel and its supporters created such an uproar that the fight later was called "among the most intense (lobby efforts) ever experienced by Congress." The campaign became so nasty and so time-consuming for the president that it lasted into the autumn, causing Reagan on Oct. 1, in an unusual public criticism of Israel, to complain at a press conference that "it is not the business of other countries to make American foreign policy."

Nonetheless, the battle persisted and Reagan had to invest his time and energies to keep the Congress from disapproving it. The House voted 301 to 111 on Oct. 14 to turn it down; it was only heavy pressure from Reagan that finally got the sale through the Senate on Oct. 28 by a majority of four. While the administration had won the battle, Israel had impressed upon Saudi Arabia that if the administration backed Israel's wishes, it would have to pay dearly in time, effort and, ultimately, political prestige.

For legislators, the message was equally grim. As Professor Cheryl A. Rubenberg, a perceptive critic of U.S.-Israeli relations, noted: "Thereafter how a senator voted on this issue became the most important factor in the (Jewish) lobby's determination of an individual's 'friendship' toward Israel. Those who were labelled 'unfriendly' faced serious problems at reelection." One such victim was Illinois Republican Senator Charles Percy, chairman of the prestigious Senate foreign affairs committee. He was defeated in 1984, in part because of a national campaign by Israel's supporters condemning his vote in favour of Awacs for Saudi Arabia, the only vote he had ever cast that did not totally endorse Israel's self-perceived interests.

If any other proof of Congress' subservience to Israel were needed, it was vividly demonstrated as early as 1978 when President Carter approved a major sale of warplanes to Israel as well as Egypt and Saudi Arabia. The Arab countries would have to approve the whole package or none of it. However, the three-way \$4.8 billion arms package caused such an uproar in Israel and among Israel's American supporters that Carter was forced to spend inordinate amounts of time on the issue. The fight became so emotional that the White House's liaison with the Jewish community, Mark Siegel, resigned in protest, publicly charging that the administration was trying to weaken the power of the Israeli lobby.

After much wrangling, the Senate finally approved the sale but Carter had learned a painful lesson: Bucking Israel's supporters was a time-consuming and politically damaging enterprise. As the president's Middle East expert on the National Security Council, William Quandt, noted: "He won the battle but seemed to conclude that it was a costly victory... As a result, Carter decided to work through (Prime Minister) Begin, not against him."

Against this doleful background, it is not surprising that the Saudis turned to other, more reliable sources on which to lavish their cash. The first major hint of Riyadh's turning away from American arms came as early as 1985 when the Saudis, disgusted

by yet more administration dithering over whether to sell it additional F-15s, turned to Britain and ordered warplanes there. The cash deal was worth at least \$7 billion, and some observers estimated nearly three times that amount, making it up to that time the largest arms sale in history. In addition, there were apparently no restrictions imposed on the technical capabilities of the British planes for location of their bases and, unlike America's F-15s that had been sold to Saudi Arabia earlier, they were configured as ground attack aircraft rather than air defence interceptors.

Loss of that sale, and now especially of the latest one, are major blows to U.S. industry. The Chamber of Commerce conservatively estimates that every \$1 billion deal lost to foreign countries equals the loss of at least 25,000 American jobs. In addition, the Saudis at the same time secretly turned to China to buy intermediate-range missiles, which Washington only discovered this year. Once again, the Saudis were not believed to be subjected by the Chinese to the same humiliating restrictions on the placement and capabilities of the missiles that the United States would have demanded.

"It is not surprising the Saudis turned to more reliable sources on which to lavish their cash"

But such is Congress' subordination to Israel that it apparently cares more to prove its "allegiance" than to stand up for a rational policy or American business or security interests. The fact is U.S. officials themselves are embarrassed by Congress' toadying antics. White House spokesman Martin Fitzwater did not hesitate to criticise Congress for Saudi Arabia's turning to other countries for its weapons. He noted, with considerable understatement, the latest deal was "a \$30 billion loss that American companies might well be fairly upset about... We regret they had to turn to Great Britain."

A more insightful comment was made by an unidentified high Saudi official to the New York Times: "We would prefer to buy weapons from the United States... but we are not going to pay billions of dollars to be insulted. We are not masochists." He added: "There is no logic in the opposition we are facing in Congress from the pro-Israel lobby. They are not accomplishing anything except showing that AIPAC (American-Israel Public Affairs Committee) can deliver senators. Israel is not more secure. We just buy from another source." — Middle East International, London.

Kuwaiti youth forego easy life to learn pearl diving

By Philip Shehadi
Reuters

KUWAIT — Many young Kuwaitis visit foreign holiday resorts to avoid the choking heat of a Gulf summer, but teenager Khaled Salem and his friends prefer hardship and danger at sea, diving for pearls as their forefathers did.

The youths have joined a summer youth camp aimed at turning pampered Kuwaiti teenagers into expert pearl divers.

"The goal is to revive a way of life lived by our fathers and grandfathers," said Khalifa Rashid, who teaches at the camp. Rashid first dived for pearls 50 years ago at the age of nine. "If we don't pass it on to our youth, the skill will die," he said.

Natural pearls from the Gulf once graced the necks of wealthy ladies from New York to Bom-

bay, but the trade all but vanished when Japan developed cheaper and more uniform cultured pearls in the 1950s.

The Gulf went on to find new and undreamed of riches in oil. Now 17-year-old Salem is one of 150 boys who gave up fancy cars and summer trips to Cannes beaches or London nightclubs to acquire an ancient skill.

Instead, they have to shave their heads and cope with gruelling 12-hour days at camp, learning how to dive and row and survive at sea.

"At school I keep thinking how much fun it will be when the summer comes and I can start pearl diving again," Salem said.

A 1985 study commissioned by the emir of Kuwait concluded that young men spent too much time racing fast cars, watching television and banned videos, and chasing girls.

All are frowned upon in a

society that remains committed to conservative Islamic values despite its vast oil wealth.

What makes Salem seek out the hardships of the past? "We want to try what our fathers and grandfathers did. I like the adventure. What will I do at home, sit around and do nothing?"

The 16-day pearling expedition sets off in August for waters off Khirfan, near the Saudi Arabian border, and organisers vow there will be no concessions to modern life.

"Last year we applied only 50 per cent of the real life of a diver," said supervisor Hassan Rajad. "This year, God willing, we will apply 100 per cent."

Dozens of boys dressed in T-shirt and wizar, a brightly coloured wrap-around skirt, prepare the ropes and weights they will use to descend to the seabed.

"When they first came their hands were so soft they got blisters just handling the ropes," said Khalifa as he inspected their handiwork. "Now look at them."

Few seemed apprehensive about getting sunstroke in the heat of 50 degrees centigrade or running into a shark or poisonous jellyfish underwater.

"I'm used to it," said 18-year-old Ali Hussein, who arrives at the marine sports club every morning in his Mercedes. It is his second summer on the programme.

During an expedition pearl-seekers wake at sea with the Muslim sunrise call to prayer. After dates and coffee, they prise open oyster shells collected the previous day. If pearls are plentiful, they stay at anchor. If not, they row to a new location.

The emir specially ordered a fleet of 12 wooden ships, from five to 10 metres long. Smaller

than the great pearling ships of the past, they have the same shape, square stern and pointed bow, and are piloted by experienced pearl-seekers like Rashid.

Diving begins around six a.m. with a net hung around his neck and wearing nose clips, the diver slips his foot into a loop on a weighted rope and descends.

Once down, he gropes along the seabed, prising loose the oyster shells and tugs on his rope when he runs out of breath. A colleague, called a seeb, pulls him up.

The men make 10 dives at a time, at depths of five to seven metres, with only a few minutes rest in between.

Breaks are allowed after noon and afternoon prayers. Diving ends at sunset, and the crew has the only real meal of the day — rice, fish and tea. Fresh water is rationed.

If a diver gets into trouble — attacked by a shark or stung by a sea urchin or stingray — he gives the rope two or three violent tugs and is hauled up at top speed.

Salem said the only time he felt scared was when a large but harmless fish, locally known as hammour, bumped his chest.

Otherwise the fun seemed to outweigh the hardship. "After dinner the boats tie up together and everybody swaps stories," Salem said. "I go to visit Ali and ask him how many shells he got. We play music."

The pearls, still abundant in the Gulf, are presented to the emir as a gift. The boys get cash bonuses.

"In 10 years we will have trained 700 boys. That's enough to train all of Kuwait," said Rashid. "And when they are as old as I am, they can teach their children how to dive."

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Iran denies holding hostages at its embassy

NICOSIA (R) — The Iranian embassy in Beirut denied Thursday a statement by Syrian Defence Minister Mustafa Tlas that foreign hostages might be held there, the Iranian news agency IRNA reported. The embassy said it was not involved in the hostage issue and dismissed the remark by Tlas in an interview with the West German magazine Stern as untrue, IRNA said. The magazine this week quoted the Syrian minister as saying 18 Westerners believed kidnapped in Lebanon were probably being held in the embassy or in the southern port of Sidon.

Sudan's energy minister resigns

KHARTOUM (R) — Sudanese Prime Minister Sadeq Al Mahdi has accepted the resignation of Energy Minister Bakri Ahmad Adeel, an official statement said Thursday. The two-line statement did not say why Adeel had quit but his departure coincided with one of Khartoum's worst energy crises in recent years. Most of the capital has been without electricity for nearly a week. Adeel is an important politburo member in Mahdi's Umma Party, part of the ruling coalition. He took the energy brief on May 15 after serving as education minister for two years in two coalition governments led by Mahdi.

Egypt to get replacement U.S. plane

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Pentagon notified Congress Thursday it had approved the sale of a single F-16 jet fighter to Egypt to replace a similar plane that crashed last year. The Defence Department, in a brief statement, estimated the deal at \$21 million and said the U.S. air force would be responsible for overseeing the transaction, assuming there were no congressional objections. Pentagon said Egypt would receive a more modern "D" model of the F-16 as a result of the replacement deal. "This F-16D will be used to replace an F-16A model aircraft which was purchased from the United States and which crashed in May 1987," the Pentagon said. "The sale of this equipment and support will not affect the basic military balance in the region."

Hungary to open direct flights to Israel

BUDAPEST (R) — Hungary is close to launching direct flights to Tel Aviv as relations between Budapest and Israel warm rapidly despite their lack of diplomatic ties. The official MTI newsagency said Thursday that the charter flights had already been settled in principle. "The agreement (is) to be signed in a matter of months as soon as some points of business and security are cleared."

Iran hangs dissident

NICOSIA (R) — Iran said a leading member of the Mujahedeen-e-Khalq organisation was hanged for his role in an offensive into western Iran last week, the Iranian news agency IRNA reported Thursday. IRNA said the dissident was hanged in public in Iran in western Iran Wednesday. It did not name him but said he was "one of the main elements involved in (Mujahedeen) plans and massacre of the innocent people of the western town of Islamabad-e Gharb." Units of Mujahedeen's National Liberation Army (NLA) based in Iraq attacked Iran's western borders July 26 and captured several towns, including Islamabad-e Gharb 100 kilometres from the border. The NLA withdrew after 72 hours to prepare for further attacks. Iran said seven Mujahedeen members were hanged in Bakhtaran Monday.

Iran sends message to Greece

ATHENS (AP) — A senior Iranian official Thursday delivered a personal message to Premier Andreas Papandreu from Iranian Prime Minister Mir Hussein Musavi, a government announcement said. The announcement did not disclose the contents of the message delivered to Papandreu by Iran's deputy premier for political affairs, Ali Reza Moayeri. The Iranian official arrived here Wednesday after a visit to Turkey. During his stay there, he gave Premier Turgut Ozal a message from Musavi asking for Turkey to support a U.N.-backed effort for a ceasefire in the Iran-Iraq war. Earlier in the day, Moayeri met with Greek Foreign Minister Carolos Papoulas and discussed developments at the United Nations on the Gulf war. The statement said Papoulas expressed "Greece's satisfaction over Iran's acceptance of U.N. Security Council Resolution 598."

Greece delays decision on U.S. request

ATHENS (R) — Greece Thursday postponed for a month a hearing on whether to extradite a Palestinian wanted by U.S. authorities to stand trial for a 1982 bomb attack on a civilian airliner. A three-member judicial council said it would consider the request to extradite Mohammad Rashid Sept. 5. The United States has accused Rashid of planting a bomb on a Pan American Airways flight over Hawaii, which killed a Japanese boy and wounded 15 other passengers. The judicial council said it needed time to examine further documents on the 34-year-old Palestinian before making a decision. Rashid's defence lawyer also asked for a delay to bring witnesses to testify in his favour. If the council approves extradition, the decision may be referred to the Greek supreme court for review.

Bonn politician thanks Iran

BONN (R) — Social Democratic politician and trouble-shooter Hans-Juergen Wischnewski thanked Iran Friday for trying to secure the release of West German hostage Rudolf Cordes, kidnapped by Lebanese militants 19 months ago. "I would like to thank those responsible in Iran for hanging over signs of life from Dr. Cordes," he told reporters. "I urge them to continue their efforts." West German authorities said this week Cordes, Lebanon manager for the Hoechst chemical company, has sent one letter to the government and two to his family. They were delivered by an Algerian-born West German emissary, Abdul Kader Sahraoui, who said Thursday the chances of Cordes being freed were "really good."

UAE celebrates Sheikh Zayed anniversary

ABU DHABI (R) — The United Arab Emirates (UAE) Friday celebrated the 22nd anniversary of Sheikh Zayed Ibn Sultan Al Nahayan's accession to power in the largest emirate of Abu Dhabi. Sheikh Zayed, who is also president of the UAE, became ruler of Abu Dhabi in 1966 after a family decision found his eldest brother Sheikh Shakhboub unfit to rule. Born in Abu Dhabi in 1918, he is regarded as the engineer of the federation of seven emirates formed a year after their independence from Britain in 1970. The UAE has an interim constitution under which Sheikh Zayed was reelected for a fourth five-year term in 1986.

Somalia rejects rebel claims

NAIROBI (R) — Somalia Friday dismissed rebel claims to have captured the northern towns of Hargeisa and Burao as "false and baseless propaganda." The Somali charge d'affaires in Kenya, Abdi Shire Warsame, told a press conference that there had been no fighting in northern Somalia since the end of June. The rebel Somali National Movement (SNM) told Reuters in a telephone call from London last week that its forces controlled the two towns which it said they had taken several weeks earlier and that fighting was continuing in surrounding areas. It also said two senior Somali officers had been captured in the battles. Warsame denied the rebels had inflicted defeats on the government and added: "We hereby state that the situation in Hargeisa and Burao towns is normal." The SNM launched an offensive in the north at the end of May and since then both sides have claimed to control the towns. Warsame declined to say whether any of the 160 foreigners evacuated from Hargeisa during heavy fighting in early June had returned. There have been few independent reports of the situation in northern Somalia, where the SNM has been fighting a guerrilla war to overthrow the government of Mohammed Siad Barre since 1981. Visa applications by journalists wishing to visit Somalia were still being considered, he added. The office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in Addis Ababa said last week that 172,000 refugees had fled from northern Somalia into Ethiopia since the end of May and 4,000 more were arriving each day. A Somali air force pilot who defected to Djibouti July 14 said he had been ordered to bomb civilian targets in Hargeisa. But Warsame said the pilot was lying as the Somali air force had never bombed towns.



Palestinian refugees receive food, cleaning tools and other aid from U.N. workers at Beirut's Shatilla camp

U.N. keeps up effort to determine hostage fate

BEIRUT (AP) — The United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) that serves Palestinian refugees wants to determine the fate of kidnapped British writer Alec Collett. UNRWA Commissioner-General Giorgio Giacomelli said Friday. "We keep in touch with embassies and authorities that are interested and engaged in the efforts to free hostages of different nationalities," Giacomelli told a news conference in west Beirut. He said UNRWA was engaged in emergency repairs, rubble clearance, distribution of basic commodities to needy families and the restoration of essential infrastructure in the two camps. Both shantytowns have been devastated by waves of factional warfare that reduced their population from 55,000 in 1982 to about 7,000. Giacomelli said repair work would continue in the two camps to encourage people to return.

He was asked whether the agency has had any fresh information about Collett, 67, who was abducted while on a writing assignment for UNRWA in South Lebanon March 15, 1985. "I'm afraid for quite some time we have heard no news about him," Giacomelli said in the 30-minute conference at the seaside Summerland hotel. The Revolutionary Organisation of Socialist Muslims, believed linked to the Palestinian faction led by Abu Nidal, claimed Collett's abduction.

On April 23, 1986, Collett's captors claimed they hanged him to avenge British support for the U.S. air attack of Libya a week earlier. The group released a videotape purporting to show Collett's body dangling from a gallows a week later. But U.N. officials who worked with Collett and saw the tape said they could not confirm the body was his. However, American embassy officials in Lebanon said they believe Collett was dead earlier and that the group took advantage of the U.S. air raid to fake the execution. Collett is among 18 foreigners missing in Lebanon. They include nine Americans, three Britons, a West German, an Italian, an Irishman, an Indian and two unidentified men. Giacomelli called the news conference after completing a five-day inspection of the war-battered refugee camps of Shatilla and Bourj Al Barajneh in Beirut.

Hamadi said to have links with Paris bombers

FRANKFURT (R) — Lebanese hijack suspect Mohammad Ali Hamadi was linked with an underground group in France responsible for a series of bomb attacks in 1986, the court trying him heard Thursday. Frankfurt's top-security court was also told that Hamadi, charged with the 1985 hijacking of a U.S. airliner and the killing of a passenger, had urged his brother in Beirut not to release two West German hostages until he himself was freed. Harald Braun, an investigator for the West German federal criminal office, testified that a notebook belonging to Hamadi listed names and telephone numbers of men later arrested or wanted for bomb attacks in France or smuggling explosives. "There were four entries connected with bomb attacks in France," Braun told the court. Braun said the group operated in France under the name Committee of Solidarity with Arab and Middle East Political Prisoners (CSPPA) and was behind 10 bomb attacks in Paris between February and September 1986 in which 10 people were killed and 270 injured. Hamadi, whose brother Abdul Hadi is said by Western sources in Lebanon to be Hizbollah security chief, said in earlier testimony that some of the names in the book were written by someone else. He would not say who wrote them and refused to discuss the names. The court also heard that a man suspected to have helped Hamadi hijack the Trans World Airlines plane to Beirut, Izzeddine, helped to pick up explosives for the CSPPA from a Paris contact point for the group's bombing campaign. A third person, Ibrahim Akil, was the man who gave Hamadi orders to smuggle explosives into West Germany.

Chances improve for election of peace president for Lebanon

BEIRUT (R) — A visit by Assistant U.S. Secretary of State Richard Murphy has given a boost to hopes of finding a leader acceptable to all the country's warring factions in the runup to presidential elections.

After weeks of stalemate, Murphy Thursday presented Lebanese leaders with a list of six names and Friday held talks in Damascus in a bid to narrow the choice further, political sources said.

"They (Americans) have come with determination to see a smooth and peaceful election... this has speeded and focused the process," said one political source. Parliament must choose a successor to President Amin Gemayel before his term expires Sept. 23 but past elections have been held several weeks before the deadline. Although the ballot is secret, the choice is effectively the result of a consensus among different local and foreign powers. Security sources said Murphy's visit had eased mounting nervousness that the poll might not be held, leading to a power vacuum and possible new military confrontation among rival militias.

Army chief Michel Aoun, speaking before Murphy's visit, warned in an interview published Friday he would send in troops to safeguard the election "at the slightest alert." Murphy, who saw acting Prime Minister Salim Al Hoss, Speaker Hussein Hussein and Gemayel, told reporters he hoped to see the election take place "in the coming days."

It was unclear how soon that might be. The sources said Murphy had no intention of shutting between Damascus and Beirut to see the election through. "He wants to settle it now," said one source. A Western diplomat cautioned, however, that the process was still hedged with uncertainty. "We don't know what's going to happen. And then we don't know what's going to happen after whatever happens, happens," he said. After 13 years of civil war, the election holds great importance for the Lebanese who want a leader to reconcile the different factions and stop the country disintegrating. The daily Al Safir said Friday: "The countdown has begun... there are not more than five or six names."

A Lebanese Forces spokesman told Reuters: "Michel Aoun is

Blast hits Syrian post

An explosion ripped through a Syrian army checkpoint in Beirut Thursday night, wounding four Syrian soldiers, police and security sources said.

The blast blew up a tin shack used by Syrian troops at the museum crossing over the so-called green line between west and east Beirut.

Syrian forces immediately sealed off the area and waved traffic away from the debris-strewn street, witnesses said. The wounded Syrians were taken to nearby Barbir hospital.

The blast, which rocked the area shortly before midnight, appeared to be the latest attack aimed at Syria's military presence in Lebanon.

Seven people were killed and 50 wounded, including three Syrian soldiers, when a car bomb tore through a crowded residential area in west Beirut July 22.

Thursday's blast took place a few hours after Murphy drove through the museum crossing to meet officials and then Gemayel. Murphy later met Farouq Al Sharaa in Damascus.

The "Voice of Lebanon" radio station said Thursday's blast was caused by a rocket that slammed into a building in Barbir where the Syrian soldiers were sleeping.

The Syrian army command did not comment on the report and the Lebanese police said they had no clue who was behind the assault.

Police could not determine the type of rocket fired because the Syrians cordoned off the area and prevented them and an explosives expert from approaching.

Airbus compensation faces hurdles

WASHINGTON (AP) — House of Representatives members are cool to an administration plan to pay compensation to the families of those killed when a U.S. warship downed an Iranian jetliner, with some insisting on "absolute guarantees" that Iran's government won't get the money.

"While we want to be humanitarian, we don't want to be naive," Rep. Patricia Schroeder told State and Defence Department officials at a hearing Thursday.

President Ronald Reagan has proposed paying compensation to the families of the 290 killed July 3 when missiles from the U.S. cruiser Vincennes destroyed an Iranian A-300 Airbus flying over the Gulf.

"Unless there are absolute guarantees, there are going to be absolute problems," said Les Aspin, chairman of the House of Representatives Armed Services Committee. Abraham Sofaer, the State Department's legal adviser, said the offer to pay compensation flows from a traditional American spirit of compassion and humanity. All nations except the Soviet Union have paid compensation after the destruction of a civilian aircraft because "civilised nations pay these kind of obligations," Sofaer said. The United States will make every effort to ensure that Tehran's government does not benefit from the payments, he said, but added that cooperation from Iranian authorities probably will be essential if the victims' families are to be identified accurately and appropriate payment made.

If there were no cooperation and survivors proved impossible to identify with certainty, the matter likely would end there. Aspin told the administration witnesses they face "a tough sell" in obtaining compensation funds from Congress because "the visceral reaction against the Iranian government runs very deep."

"Time is very valuable and I think we should make everything possible, and the administration should show a more active interest," Vassiliou said. "I don't like using this word. I don't think this is the age of pressures. It's the age of understanding."

Vassiliou said he expected the Reagan administration to work for a solution in its remaining months in office. "I agree that a 'lame duck' administration, as it's called in the United States, has a number of limitations in certain fields, but in the case of Cyprus, since as I said it's a bipartisan attitude that we are talking about, there is no reason why we should lose time because of the elections."

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Vassiliou seeks bipartisan U.S. approach

WASHINGTON (AP) — President George Vassiliou of Cyprus said Thursday that both candidates for U.S. president "clearly indicated" to him that they want to step up American involvement in seeking an end to the Greek-Turkish division of his island nation.

"I have had a very fruitful and intensive visit to Washington," Vassiliou told reporters. During four days of meetings the Greek-Cypriot leader had talks with President Ronald Reagan and other U.S. officials as well as the two candidates, Republican George Bush and Democrat Michael Dukakis.

The political campaign of Dukakis, who is Greek-American, has received strong financial support from the Greek-American community, which also has been campaigning for years for a withdrawal of Turkish forces from Cyprus.

Vassiliou was asked whether he thought Dukakis or Bush would play a more active role in seeking a solution to the Cyprus problem. "I want a bipartisan policy on Cyprus," Vassiliou said. "I do not want the Cyprus issue to be a case of contention — 'I can do better.' That doesn't help. So I prefer not to say more than that."

"But what I can say is that both of them have shown an increased interest in the Cyprus issue and both of them clearly indicated that they would like a more active role played by the United States than what was the case until now."

Vassiliou said he found strong U.S. support for his planned talks with Rauf Denkash, leader of the Turkish Cypriot side, under auspices of U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar in New York starting Aug. 24.

But beyond that, he said, "what I expect from the United States... is a more clear indication of their desire to see an end to the problem, to see Cyprus being reunited again, and I think the United States has many ways of showing their desire in this respect."

Asked whether he meant the United States should pressure Turkey to make concessions, Vassiliou said he expected the Reagan administration to work for a solution in its remaining months in office. "I agree that a 'lame duck' administration, as it's called in the United States, has a number of limitations in certain fields, but in the case of Cyprus, since as I said it's a bipartisan attitude that we are talking about, there is no reason why we should lose time because of the elections."

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Kuwait expands oil refineries, looks for new markets abroad

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait is nearing the end of a multi-billion-dollar programme to expand and modernise its domestic oil refineries, the cornerstone of a policy to capture new markets for refined products overseas.

Kuwait Petroleum Corp (KPC) has already clinched a place among multinational oil giants with the acquisition of refineries and petrol stations in Europe dating back to 1983 and exploration rights around the globe.

Now, with an expansion project at one of the world's most modern refineries soon to come on stream at Mina Abdullah on the Kuwait coast, KPC is hungry for new acquisitions of sales outlets elsewhere in Europe and Asia.

"We are looking for opportunities — companies selling products we want to sell that are profitable and well run," said Hani Hussein, KPC's assistant managing director for marketing.

Kuwait has done more than any other member of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) to integrate oil operations, from desert wells to consumers abroad.

Keen to squeeze the most out of a barrel of crude oil and insulate itself from price fluctuations in the world crude market, the northern Gulf state has

aggressively turned to refined products processing and sales through its own network.

The attraction is clear — prices for refined products such as petrol on the garage forecourt are not as volatile and not subject to OPEC's official selling rates.

KPC subsidiary Kuwait Petroleum International (KPI) now sells petrol directly to European motorists through a network of 4,800 stations bearing colourful "Q-8" brand logo, a traditional Gulf sailing ship.

Q-8 stations have opened in Sweden, Denmark, Holland, Belgium, Luxembourg, Italy and Britain, many acquired from Gulf Oil Corp. in 1983.

Hussein said the European network now handles between 250,000 and 350,000 barrels a day (b/d).

"We would expect that number to grow... to 400,000-500,000 b/d, ultimately. But not this year or the year after," he said.

He said since KPC aimed to expand market share through acquisitions and service rather than price competition, the pace of

expansion depended on the availability of good offers.

"We are not talking to anyone now. But this doesn't mean we won't buy if we find the right offer," Hussein said.

Britain, Holland and Italy, where market share is relatively low, are considered by the oil industry as prime targets.

The acquisition by the London-based Kuwait Investment Office of a 22 per cent stake in British Petroleum Co Plc. (B.P.) is so far no more than an investment, but the move raised concern in Britain that Kuwait was aiming for long-term control of the company.

"West Germany and France would be natural locations for us to expand because they are huge consumers of oil. But we have to have the right opportunity," Hussein said.

KPI's only major acquisition so far this year has been a 4,500 b/d Italian lubricating oil plant.

Japan has proved a tough market to crack because of restrictions on foreign investment.

But other Asian countries including the Philippines, where the national oil company mooted privatisation of its downstream business in 1986, have been studied.

At home, the Kuwait National Petroleum Co. (KNPC) has commissioned a new crude unit at the Mina Abdullah refinery that will

almost double its capacity to around 210,000 b/d, officials said.

Other refineries at Mina Al Ahmadi and Shuaiba can together produce as much as 585,000 b/d, but Hussein said they were expected to average a total of about 440,000 b/d this year.

That means about two-thirds of current Kuwaiti crude oil production, which Hussein put at just under one million b/d, is sold as refined products. The country's OPEC quota is 996,000.

Kuwait also operates former Gulf Oil refineries in Denmark and Holland with a combined throughput of around 135,000 b/d. But they are often run with non-Kuwaiti crude.

Bader Hajji Yousef, manager of Mina Al Ahmadi refinery, said the \$2 billion expansion project at Mina Abdullah would be fully on stream by early next year.

That will mark the end of a scheme launched in 1980 to upgrade all three refineries, boosting their output of profitable middle distillates such as gas oil and kerosene at the expense of fuel oil, which yields lower prices.

"The main feature is zero fuel oil," Yousef said of Mina Abdullah. "It's unique in the area... the goal is to improve on the product quality to be more competitive in world markets."

Trading at AFM remains moderate

AMMAN (Petra) — The average daily trading at the Amman Financial Market (AFM) in the past week registered JD 178,648 while the overall trading volume stood at JD 893,242. The total number of shares traded was 831,578 conducted through 1,272 transactions, according to AFM's weekly bulletin issued Thursday.

The bulletin said the industrial sector's share of the past week's operations amounted to JD 505,390 or 56.6 per cent of the

total volume. It was followed by the banks and financial institutions' sector with JD 312,419 or 34.9 per cent.

The services sector registered 4.4 per cent and the insurance sector 0.4 per cent.

According to the bulletin the shares of 66 companies were

traded last week. 16 of them showed a rise in prices, 32 other companies showed a decline and the remaining 18 companies' shares remained stable.

Sudanese official hints at devaluation of pound

KHARTOUM (R) — A senior Sudanese official hinted strongly Friday at a devaluation of the currency, saying priority should be given to setting a more realistic exchange rate for the Sudanese pound.

"The determination of a realistic exchange rate for the Sudanese pound is the most important task ahead," Minister of State for Finance Al Tigrani Al Tayeb Ibrahim told the official Sudan News Agency SUNA.

Ibrahim returned last week from Washington where he had more than three weeks of talks with International Monetary Fund (IMF) officials seeking a lower pound.

The pound has been officially fixed at 4.50 to the dollar since October last year, when Sudan devalued by 44 per cent as part of an agreement with the IMF on economic reforms which also included petrol and sugar price rises.

The measures, as similar reforms had done in the past, sparked street protests in which several people were killed. But foreign bankers and economists say Sudan has no choice but to devalue the pound further.

They predict the government will decree a small devaluation before the end of the year, if only to maintain the goodwill of the IMF, to which it is \$1 billion in arrears, and donor countries.

The IMF, which declared Sudan ineligible for fresh credits in 1986, wants Khartoum to devalue and cut spending. In return, it would give donors the go-ahead to help to finance a four-year economic recovery plan.

Talks in Khartoum between the two sides broke down in June when Sudan refused to devalue, but Ibrahim said the issue needed further study and a new round of negotiations was expected in September.

Local press reports have said Sudan is prepared to devalue by two pounds to 6.50 pounds to the dollar but the IMF wants a massive readjustment to bring the official exchange rate close to the black market rate.

The pound has traded on the illegal, though generally tolerated, black market at about 10 pounds to the dollar over the past year.

The market attracts most of the foreign currency remittances of the estimated one million Sudanese working abroad, who shun the lower rate offered by banks.

Foreign currency changing hands on the black market is also used to finance private sector imports under what is locally termed "their own resources system."

Bankers said the introduction of the system late last year amounted to an official endorsement of the black market rate, on which importers depend for their foreign currency.

Ibrahim said the government would encourage the expansion of the system. Private importers would be given a greater role and the government wanted them to expand operations to include most essential imports.

Western diplomats in Khartoum said Sudan was also under IMF pressure to reduce spending which they said was largely covered through massive borrowing from the Bank of Sudan, the central bank.

This had helped to drive up the inflation rate, which the diplomats put at nearly 100 per cent, more than twice the official estimate.

Finance Minister Omar Nour Al Dayem has said the government borrowed 1.6 billion pounds (\$355 million) from the Bank of Sudan during the fiscal year which ended June 30.

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Thursday rates
Local sell/buy rates in Jds

Belgian franc (for 100)	94.2/95.1	Saudi riyal	99.7/102.5
Dutch guilder	174.8/176.5	Syrian lira	11.1/11.36
French franc	58.5/59.1	Lebanese lira	1.1/1.14
Italian lira (for 100)	26.7/27.0	Iraqi dinar	270.0/310.0
Japanese yen (for 100)	278.1/280.9	Kuwaiti dinar	130.0/133.0
Swedish crown	37.4/38.0	Qatari riyal	160.0/164.0
U.K. sterling pound	236.6/239.0	Egyptian pound	102.2/103.0
U.S. dollar	632.2/638.1	UAE dirham	101.3/101.6
Deutschemark	369.1/373.1	Omani riyal	967.0/972.5
	197.2/199.2	Bahraini dinar	985.0/992.5

JORDAN BUSINESS DIRECTORY

Ministry of Industry and Trade	663191	Jordan Commercial Centres Corporation	605507
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Ministry of Finance	636321	Amman Financial Market	660170
Ministry of Planning	644466	Amman Chamber of Commerce	666151
Ministry of Labour	663186	Amman Chamber of Industry	644747
Ministry of Communications	847391	Association of Banks in Jordan	662258
Ministry of Agriculture	639391	Jordan Association of Insurance Companies	647370
Income Tax Department	660151	General Statistics Department	846171
Central Bank of Jordan	639301	Jordanian Businessmen Association	680663
Amman Customs Department	772181		
Social Security Corporation	643000		
Jordan Industrial Estates Corporation	721194		

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Friday.

One Sterling	1.7040/50	U.S. dollar	
One U.S. dollar	1.2055/65	Canadian dollar	
	1.8857/67	Deutschemark	
	2.1295/1305	Dutch guilders	
	1.5725/35	Swiss francs	
	39.45/48	Belgian francs	
	6.3590/3620	French francs	
	1391/1392	Italian lire	
	133.22/32	Japanese yen	
	6.4500/50	Swedish crowns	
	6.8250/8300	Norwegian crowns	
	7.1660/1710	Danish crowns	
One ounce of gold	431.75/432.25	U.S. dollars	

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

SYDNEY — The market closed higher as buying enthusiasm for leading industrial stocks spread into other sectors. The All Ordinaries closed up 9.4 at 1,641.15.

TOKYO — Prices climbed to a record close on a late-afternoon rally focused on incentive-backed and selected financial shares after an otherwise listless session. The Nikkei index rose 130.72 to 28,423.38.

HONG KONG — Prices recouped most earlier losses after finding firm buying support at lower levels. The Hang Seng index fell 6.20 to 2,671.17.

SINGAPORE — Prices closed generally higher in late buying interest spurred by the rise on the Tokyo market. The Straits Times Industrial index rose 6.49 to 1,172.05, a new high for the year.

BOMBAY — Share prices shed initial lethargy and recovered sharply in brisk trading for the new account. Tata Steel gained 1.25 rupees to 821.25 and Associated Cement three to 250.

FRANKFURT — Prices climbed markedly across the board to finish just off the day's highs. Operators were encouraged by a spate of optimistic profit forecasts and a improved climate on the bond market. The Dax index rose 13.66 to 1,197.38.

ZURICH — Prices closed higher in increasing turnover despite some profit-taking in special situations. The Swiss index rose 7.8 to 908.6.

PARIS — Prices ended easier in quiet trading but off their lows.

LONDON — Prices held steady below the day's highs in late-afternoon trading, after an adverse reaction on Wall Street to U.S. July unemployment figures took the edge off earlier London gains. At 1605 GMT the FTSE 100 share index was up 6.3 at 1,876.0.

NEW YORK — Stocks continued lower in late-morning trading, showing little change from early levels depressed by the jobs data. The Dow was down nine at 2,117.

Iraq to repair oil facilities

KUWAIT (R) — Iraq plans to repair war-ravaged Gulf oil facilities once peace with Iran is assured in a move that will further boost its oil export capacity, industry sources said.

They said that in a year or less Iraq could set up floating oil terminals in the northern Gulf able to pump up to one million barrels per day (b/d), nearly one-third current export capacity.

That would confirm Iraq's

place as the second largest Middle Eastern oil producer after Saudi Arabia and help finance massive reconstruction projects envisaged after the end of the eight-year-old war.

But the sources cautioned that Iraq was unlikely to proceed until it felt true peace was at hand. War damage to a key offshore oil pipeline and dangers posed by unexploded ordnance had yet to be assessed, they added.

Iranian air raids devastated Iraq's Gulf oil export terminals early in the fighting, forcing it to build overland pipelines to the Red Sea and the Mediterranean.

Syria's closure in 1982 of an Iraqi pipeline to the Mediterranean after a political dispute further squeezed the country's oil outlets, and production plunged to less than one million b/d in 1982 from 3.3 million b/d in 1979. Pipelines through Saudi Arabia and Turkey have boosted current output to around 2.6 million b/d.

U.S. pays part of arrears to FAO

ROME (R) — The United States has paid \$25 million to the troubled U.N. Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) after settling a row over budget procedures, a senior FAO official said Thursday.

The funds form part of the \$132 million which FAO says Washington owes in contributions for 1986, 1987 and 1988. The U.S. is the agency's biggest single donor and a vociferous critic of its past financial management.

The official, who asked not be identified, said the money had arrived last week and would help ease a severe financial crisis at the FAO, the United Nations' biggest agency.

The 20-nation finance and planning committee, which include the United States, agreed in May that Director-General Edouard Saouma would in future consult them before drawing up the FAO's biennial budget.

"The U.S. had asked for a reform of our budget procedures... and had been holding up payment pending a solution to that issue," the official said. "Many proposals meet the requirements and demands of the U.S. and are agreeable to other members of the committee," he said.

The FAO official said it was not clear if and when more funds would be forthcoming from Washington and said the amount

transferred was all that the U.S. administration had provided for in its 1988 budget.

Members of the U.S. mission to the FAO were not immediately available for comment.

Diplomatic sources said the payment reflected a belief in Washington that the FAO was willing to respond to concerns about the agency's financing, operations and management procedures.

But they said payment of remaining outstanding contributions was likely to depend on further evidence of progress and domestic U.S. budgetary considerations.

The budget reforms agreed in May will come into force next

January, when Saouma begins the process of drawing up the agency's 1990-91 budget.

Major donor countries often complained that they did not have enough say in the way the budget was compiled, saying that budget proposals were virtually impossible to change by the time they reached the FAO conference for final approval.

Critics have said the new mechanism agreed in May would help avoid this problem.

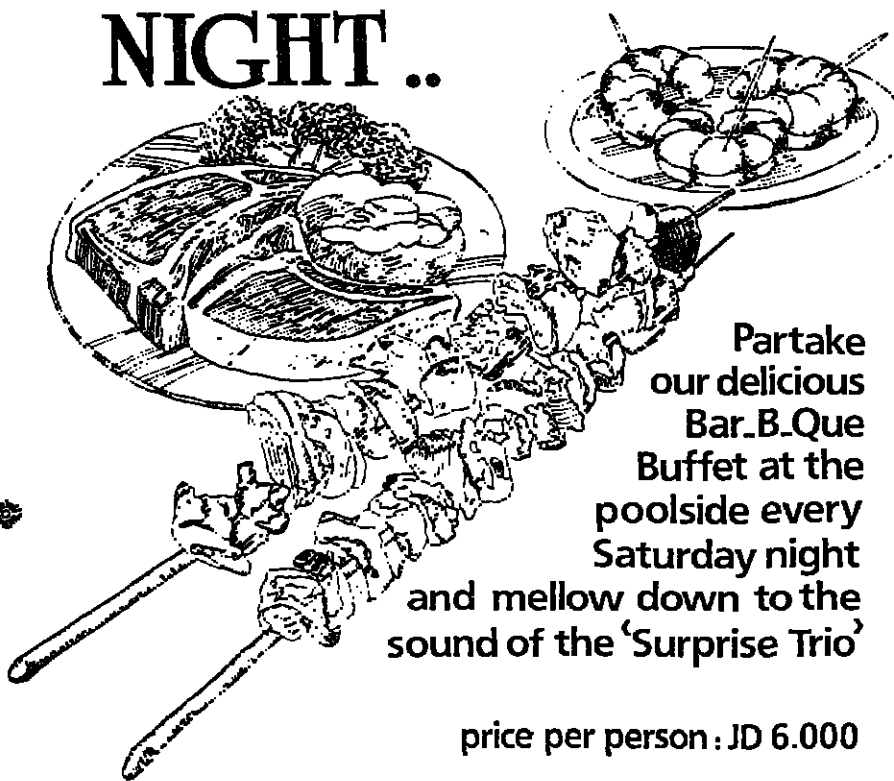
The United States, Britain, Canada and Australia voted against the 1988-89 budget of \$492 million at the agency's conference last November, when Saouma won an unprecedented third six-year term despite their opposition.

Last March, the United States wrote to the agency asking questions about its management, including queries about entertainment allowances and the salaries of Saouma and his deputy.

Saouma has frequently appealed to the United States to pay its arrears and has held it primarily responsible for the agency's financial crisis. The United States has provided 25 per cent of the budget.



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Angola peace talks extended

GENEVA (AP) — The U.S.-mediated negotiations on a peace settlement in Southern Africa went into an extra day Friday after a U.S. spokesman described the talks among Angola, Cuba and South Africa as being "on track."

The parties met for four hours Friday, then broke for lunch. A member of the Cuban delegation told journalists waiting in front of the meeting centre that the talks would resume later, but gave no details.

U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Chester Crocker, who is mediating the talks, refused to talk to reporters as he left the building. He was scheduled to give a news conference Friday at 1500 GMT.

U.S. spokesman Art Skop said he had no details of what the negotiators were discussing. The talks were originally scheduled to end Thursday.

On Thursday, Skop said the negotiations were "on track and the full agenda of issues is under discussion."

Skop's statement suggested that a controversy earlier in the

week over South African peace proposals had not derailed the negotiations.

The proposals were unexpectedly unveiled Tuesday night in Pretoria by South African Foreign Minister P.W. Botha. They called for an Aug. 10 ceasefire in the 13-year-old Angolan war and linked independence for South-West Africa, also known as Namibia, conditional on the withdrawal of Cuban troops from Angola by June 1.

The Cuban and Angolan delegations in Geneva rejected the proposals, with Cuba calling them "preposterous and unrealistic."

Cuba previously offered to pull its estimated 50,000 troops out of Angola over a four-year period. The troops have helped the Marxist government fight UNITA, the rebel movement of Jonas Savimbi, which receives military

aid from South Africa and the United States. Some 3,000 South African troops are in southern Angola backing UNITA forces.

In South Africa, Botha said Wednesday night that counter-proposals were being discussed in Geneva, but he did not elaborate. South Africa's public announcement of its proposals apparently broke an agreement by the negotiators to keep the talks confidential.

The Southern Africa talks began in May in London and are in their fifth round. The current round began on an upbeat note after a previous round July 20 in New York produced for the first time a joint document in which Cuba, Angola and South Africa accepted a set of 14 principles as a framework for a settlement.

On Tuesday, South Africa also proposed to start withdrawing its estimated 50,000 troops from Namibia Nov. 1.

South Africa's mandate over Namibia was terminated by the United Nations in 1966, but it has retained control of the mineral-rich country in defiance of several U.N. Security Council re-

solutions.

In Luanda, Angola, Thursday, Sam Nujoma, leader of the South-West African People's Organisation (SWAPO), the main guerrilla group fighting for Namibian independence, charged that South Africa had reinforced its troops in Namibia recently. He questioned the sincerity of the government's offer to withdraw.

South Africa also called for the dismantling of seven guerrilla camps that it said were operated in Angola by the African National Congress (ANC), the main black group fighting to overthrow the South African government.

The New York principles did not mention the ANC's role, nor those of UNITA or SWAPO, which is reported to have bases in Angola.

In Pretoria, President P.W. Botha met Thursday with leaders of Namibia's multiracial interim government and gave assurances that they would be consulted about developments in the negotiations. Botha said no agreement on independence for the territory had been reached.

Shultz visits Brazil

BRASILIA, Brazil (AP) — U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz met Friday morning with Foreign Minister Roberto de Abreu Sodre at the start of his only working day in Brazil. Shultz arrived at 9 a.m. (1200 GMT) at the foreign ministry, where ceremonial guards lined the entrance ramp in his honour.

The U.S. official was to meet privately for an hour with Sodre and then visit the supreme court. He was to have lunch with President Jose Sarney at the Dawn palace, the president's official residence.

Later Shultz was to visit Finance Minister Malson da Nobrega and congressional leaders.

Shultz arrived in the Brazilian capital late Thursday night from Montevideo, Uruguay, on the fourth stop of a nine-country Latin American tour.

Foreign ministry spokesman Ruy Nogueira said Shultz had an "open agenda." The only topics he asked to discuss were Central America, Panama, technology transfer and the summit talks between U.S. President Ronald Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev.

The Brazilian press has speculated Shultz will try to drum up support for a condemnation of Nicaragua's Sandinista government. But Brazil has always supported a peaceful settlement to fighting in Central America and opposes outside interference.

The Brazilians want to talk about Iran-Iraq peace negotiations, South Africa and U.S. trade policy, Nogueira said.

The trade issue is a touchy one in Brazil, which depends on exports to industrialised nations to pay its huge foreign debt, the largest among developing nations.

Last month, the U.S. government announced its intention to impose sanctions on \$200 million worth of Brazilian exports because it refuses to recognise patents on U.S. drugs.

Brazil called the decision unfair and discriminatory. It claims foreign-owned drug companies — especially U.S. companies — dominate the Brazilian pharmaceutical market.

Shultz's visit is seen as part of a "farewell" tour by the State Department of the outgoing Reagan administration.

3 civilians arrested in Guatemala coup attempt

GUATEMALA CITY (R) — Guatemalan President Vinicio Cerezo said Thursday three civilians were arrested last weekend in connection with a plot to overthrow the country's civilian government.

Cerezo told reporters the three were arrested after they approached several army officers with "a plan to destabilise the government."

He downplayed the incident and did not give the names of those involved or any further details about the coup plot.

Presidential spokesman Julio Santos later identified the arrested civilians as Guillermo Florian Corado, 40, Alejandro Guzman Roman, 60, and Jose Martin Recinos Zepeda, 43.

Santos said the three were arrested Sunday outside the Justo Rufino Barrios military base on the eastern side of Guatemala City after they proposed an upris-

ing to several officers.

He did not say who arrested the three or give further details of the plot but he stressed to reporters that they should not describe the incident as a coup because the military was not involved.

Cerezo denied an earlier local radio report that three army officers had been arrested in connection with a coup attempt.

He said the army was in full support of the civilian government and that the three arrested "possibly belong to a political party."

Earlier Thursday, a senior army spokesman said there was nothing to the coup reports.

"All the commands in the country are working normally and nothing out of the ordinary has been reported," Colonel Arturo Isaacs Rodriguez, head of the army public relations service told Reuters.



12-year-old wins Sri Lankan lottery

COLOMBO (AP) — The winner of Sri Lanka's biggest ever lottery prize plans to buy two bicycles and a doll with his winnings. He is 12 years old. The youth, identified only as Chaminda for security reasons, will receive five million Sri Lankan rupees (\$160,000) for his investment in a 10-rupee (\$80.33) ticket. He was quoted in newspapers Friday as saying he is buying a bicycle for himself, another for his younger brother and a doll for his sister. His father will put the rest of the money in the bank, the sixth-grade student said. The prize is a fortune in this island nation where per capita income was estimated at \$340 in 1985.

Navy bans topless dancers

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. navy said Thursday it is banning topless dancers and other sexually oriented entertainers at base clubs for officers and sailors, in response to charges that it encourages abusive behaviour towards women. The prohibition, contained in revised regulations for navy mess (canteen and bar) operations, was signed June 30 by Vice Admiral Leon A. Edney, the chief of naval personnel, and distributed to navy bases around the world. The navy said the move was approved by Admiral Carlisle A.H. Trost, chief of naval operations, and is effective immediately. The new guidelines specify that all entertainment at base clubs must meet "appropriate standards of discretion, modesty and good taste."

Controversial film opens next month

ROME (AP) — Martin Scorsese's film "The Last Temptation of Christ" will appear in the Venice film festival, despite being branded by some church leaders as blasphemous and condemned by Italy's leading political party. "Why not show it?" asked Genny Fiorini, head of the cinema office, in a telephone interview from Venice. The Christian Democrats denounced the movie in which Jesus must endure the "last temptation" — making love to Mary Magdalene. Fundamentalist church groups also have protested the movie in the United States. The movie, which stars Willem Dafoe as Jesus and Barbara Hershey as Mary, is to be released next month.

Carter to climb Mount Kilimanjaro

DAR ES SALAAM (R) — Former U.S. President Jimmy Carter was due to begin climbing Africa's highest mountain Friday at the start of a 10-day visit to Tanzania. The 63-year-old Carter, his wife Rosalynn and seven other members of his family are expected to take five days to climb the snow-capped summit of 5,895 metre Mount Kilimanjaro in northern Tanzania and back down to its base. Carter and his family arrived in Tanzania Wednesday night at the start of a private visit to east Africa, which will also take them to Kenya and Uganda.

Stewart ignores noise complaints

GREENWOOD VILLAGE, Colorado (AP) — Operators of Fiddler's Green Amphitheatre say rock performer Rod Stewart and his sound crew kept the noise levels high at a recent performance, ignoring requests from theatre operators to lower the volume. The raspy-voiced Stewart did not make many friends with remarks ridiculing the noise complaints from neighbours of the Arapahoe county arena. More than 300 complaining calls lit up emergency switchboards at the Sheriff's department during the British performer's show, the most since the 18,000-seat amphitheatre opened this summer. Stewart reportedly told the crowd that he knew about the noise complaints and said: "I want to be the loudest one yet."

U.S. town bans crime, accidents

HOTCHKISS, Colorado (AP) — Faced with this tiny town, faced with a new state law that prohibits hiring part-time police officers, has ordered a ban on crime, accidents, emergencies and deaths Mondays and Tuesdays. Those are the marshal's days off. "We are really a rather peaceful little town," Mayor John Neill says, admitting that the ban is to call attention to the state law that took effect July 1.

Study links alcohol and breast cancer

CHICAGO (AP) — Researchers have found a statistical link between the amount of alcohol a woman consumes and her risk of breast cancer, according to an analysis published Thursday of 16 previous studies.

The report, in an article in the Journal of the American Medical Association, said there was compelling evidence that the more alcoholic drinking a woman does, the greater her risk of developing malignant breast cancer.

But the authors did not find a strict cause-and-effect relationship between drinking and breast cancer.

They also said moderate drinking can reduce stress and the risk of heart attack.

The evidence showed women who had two or more drinks a day had as much as a 70 per cent higher risk of developing breast cancer than women who had one drink or less each day.

The authors acknowledged the possibility of problems with the techniques of pooling the results of earlier studies but said: "The results of meta-analyses of experimental epidemiologic data have been shown to approximate those of the 'gold standard' of large, well-conducted studies."

Soviets leave Kandahar, Shevardnadze holds talks

MOSCOW (R) — Soviet forces were withdrawing from the Afghan city of Kandahar Friday, leaving all of southern Afghanistan empty of Moscow's troops, Soviet media reported.

In Kabul, Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze began talks with Afghan leaders on the implementation of the Geneva accords under which Soviet troops are being pulled out, radio Moscow said.

Shevardnadze flew to Kabul Thursday on a working visit that was not announced in advance.

A day earlier, he had met Pakistan Foreign Minister Yaqub Khan in Moscow and charged that Pakistan was continuing to

aid Afghan rebels in violation of the Geneva accords.

Radio Moscow said Soviet troops were leaving Kandahar and Kanduz, in the north, Friday. "It will take them six days to reach the border cities of Kushka and Termez," the radio said.

The Soviet armed forces newspaper, Krasnaya Zvezda, said helicopter crews had left Kandahar province already in a flying echelon Thursday. It said motorised infantry and paratroopers also left this week.

Now that the last Soviet forces were leaving the city, "There are no Soviet troops in Kandahar or in entire southern Afghanistan," Krasnaya Zvezda said.

Paper claims Pakistan downed Afghan plane

ISLAMABAD (AP) — A leftist newspaper reported Friday that a Pakistani warplane shot down an Afghan fighter plane near a Pakistani border village.

The Frontier Post newspaper said the Afghan fighter intruded into Pakistani airspace Thursday evening and was shot down by a Pakistani air force F-16.

Asked to comment, a government spokesman said he had not heard of any such attack. The paper said the plane was

downed near the village of Miranshah, about 190 kilometres southwest of the frontier city of Peshawar, headquarters of the seven-party Afghan Guerrilla Alliance.

Baz Mohammad, spokesman for the province of Waziristan, where Miranshah is located, was quoted as telling the Frontier Post that four Afghan refugees were killed Wednesday when a Soviet-Afghan fighter jet slipped across the border and dumped its payload near Miranshah.

IRA seen still pursuing violence as strife marks 20th anniversary

BLEFAST (AP) — The new upsurge in Irish Republican Army (IRA) violence could signal the start of a campaign to mark the 20th anniversary of the outbreak of sectarian strife in Northern Ireland, a Belfast newspaper reported Thursday.

The Irish news, considered authoritative on matters involving the IRA, said the outlawed organisation hopes to swing public opinion on the British mainland behind demands for a withdrawal of British troops from Northern Ireland.

As the 20th anniversary approaches, the paper said, the IRA is determined to prove to its many critics that Britain has not succeeded in bringing peace to Northern Ireland.

"The critical thing as far as the IRA is concerned is getting the debate going — the debate that will show the British presence has

failed," the paper quoted a nationalist source as saying.

The British government ordered troops into the province Aug. 14, 1969, after violence flared in Londonderry, Northern Ireland's second-largest city, during a march by Catholics demanding greater civil rights. Since then, at least 2,665 people have died as a result of sectarian and political fighting.

This week, the IRA has killed four members of Britain's security forces, three in attacks in Northern Ireland and one in the bombing of an army barracks in north London. Forty-two people were injured in the attacks.

The IRA, which has targeted the security forces in its fight to drive the British out of Northern Ireland, also warned civilians to steer clear of British servicemen at bases around the world.

Meanwhile the IRA said its guerrillas gunned down two Protestant civilians doing maintenance work at a heavily fortified British barracks and declared it will kill others doing similar work.

Protestant civilians doing maintenance work at a heavily fortified British barracks and declared it will kill others doing similar work.

Troops patrol Burma capital

RANGOON (R) — Troops in armoured cars, trucks and on foot patrolled the Burmese capital Rangoon Friday to prevent further anti-government protests in defiance of martial law.

Witnesses said the forces were strengthened after thousands of people chanting anti-government slogans and protesting against the appointment of new leader Sein Lwin marched through the city centre Thursday.

The official news agency NAB said 25 people were detained in clashes throughout the capital and said there were further disturbances in the town of Pegu. In Rangoon troops fired warn-

ing shots to disperse demonstrators gathered near the Sule Pagoda, in the heart of the crumbling old British colonial-style capital, and smaller protests took place in at least five districts.

NAB said 25 people were detained, including 19 students, after groups commandeered vehicles and stoned buses and schools trying to "agitate students who were attending classes."

It said about 800 people, including some 300 students, marched through Pegu, 80 kilometres north-east of Rangoon, rallying before anti-government speakers and hurling stones at shops. There were no reports of injuries. Traders said prices were

rising fast in reaction to the renewed crisis.

Shops in Rangoon appeared to be opening normally Friday.

Martial law was ordered Wednesday after a week of street protests against the appointment of Sein Lwin, widely hated because of his role in suppression of dissent, as new leader of the all-powerful Burma Socialist Programme Party (BSPP).

The country of 38 million, whose economy has collapsed after 26 years of military rule under the former leader Ne Win, has seethed with unrest since March. Diplomats say more than 200 people have died in clashes.

Bush, Dukakis exchange sharp words

LOS ANGELES (R) — Michael Dukakis exchanged sharp words on defence policy with his Republican rival George Bush in a long-distance clash as the Democratic presidential nominee headed west to campaign for votes and funds in southern California.

Vice President Bush launched the initial salvo Thursday in a speech in his adopted home state of Texas when he said the Massachusetts governor was soft on defence and his foreign and defence policies were a major departure from accepted norms.

"His positions, if taken together, add up to a major departure from the post-war bipartisan consensus on foreign policy... (and) amount to a rejection of America's role as a world leader and a repudiation of the Truman Doctrine and the vision of John Kennedy," Bush told a Hispanic military academy.

But Dukakis, travelling

through the deep south on his way to Los Angeles, told reporters, "I think the vice president knows better than that."

"I want a strong America — all Americans want a strong Amer-

ica — but we've got to have strong conventional forces as well as a strong nuclear deterrent," he said. "We aren't getting that and we're not going to get it under Vice President Bush."

U.S. Congress panel passes drought bill

WASHINGTON (R) — A U.S. Senate-House of Representatives conference committee Thursday passed a \$3.9 billion drought relief bill that was shorn of several costly provisions and is expected to win quick approval from the White House.

The bill provides disaster payments of up to \$100,000 each to farmers and ranchers who have suffered an estimated total \$10 billion in losses during the worst farmbelt drought in at least 50 years.

It also includes a three-month

\$50 hoist in the milk support price, to \$11.10 per hundredweight beginning April 1.

Deputy Agriculture Secretary Peter Myers said the administration backs the bill. President Reagan will sign it "as soon as (the full Congress) can get it passed," he said.

Lawmakers hope to send the bill to Reagan next week.

"Those who were facing bankruptcy this year can now look forward to a new crop next year," said Senate Agriculture Committee Chairman Patrick Leahy.

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

U.S. to hold nuclear test with Soviets

MERCURY, Nev. (R) — The U.S. department of energy said Thursday it will set off an underground nuclear blast Aug. 17 at its Nevada test site with Soviet scientists on hand to monitor it. The historic joint test, part of a series of steps the two superpowers are taking towards on-site monitoring of each other's nuclear tests, has been planned since last year. The date was not announced until now.

North asks for hearing delay

WASHINGTON (R) — Attorneys for Oliver North have asked the judge in the Iran-contra case to delay until January a hearing on the secret documents that the fired White House aide wants to disclose at his trial. "In its frantic rush to trial before the (Nov. 8 presidential) election, the court seems to have abandoned all sense of what is possible and what is fair," they said in asking for the delay. "The hearing, if it is held on Aug. 8, will be a complete sham, and the court knows it," they said in papers filed with U.S. District Judge Gerhard Gesell. A spokeswoman for the special prosecutor in the case, Lawrence Walsh, said he strongly opposed any delay.

Hanoi's decision worries U.S.

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. government is "very concerned" that Vietnam is halting plans for joint humanitarian projects, presidential spokesman Martin Fitzwater said Thursday. "We're a little surprised and not quite sure what Vietnam is up to here," Fitzwater told reporters. "We are very concerned, because we thought we were making some progress at getting the investigations MIA's (Missing in Action) and POW's (Prisoners of war)," he said.

Biaggi convicted in Wedtech case

NEW YORK (AP) — A federal jury Thursday convicted a veteran congressman and three others of racketeering, on charges that they turned a defense contracting company into an enterprise dispensing millions of dollars in bribes. The verdict against Mario Biaggi, a 10-term Democrat, came on the fifth day of deliberations. The congressman and six others at the four-month trial were accused of using Wedtech Corporation, as a racketeering operation to hand out large bribes to win no-bid government contracts set aside for businesses owned by ethnic minorities. The trial, which began March 11, generated nearly 20,000 pages of transcript over four months of testimony and a week of closing arguments. It grabbed national headlines and reached into the top echelons of government.

8 protestors arrested in Warsaw

WARSAW (AP) — Eight members of an independent opposition group were detained Thursday after throwing anti-government leaflets from the windows of a Krakow-bound train, an opposition spokesman said. The spokesman said the eight were dragged off the train for throwing leaflets from train windows as it pulled out of the station. The leaflets demanded Polish independence from the Soviet Union.

Top Pakistani Shi'ite shot dead

PESHAWAR, Pakistan (R) — Pakistan's most prominent Shi'ite Muslim was shot dead in the north-western city of Peshawar Friday by an unidentified gunman, police said. Arif Ali-Hussaini, an outspoken supporter of Iranian religious leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, was hit in the chest on his way to early morning prayers and died before reaching hospital. Police said they had no immediate information on who was responsible.

Scientists find anti-AIDS protein

WASHINGTON (R) — Medical researchers said Thursday they had synthesized a protein found in laboratory tests to prevent the AIDS virus from infecting human immune cells. The protein "seems to prevent infection of the body's immune cells by the AIDS virus in the laboratory," said Lee Eiden, a scientist at the National Institute of Mental Health who led the team. Eiden told Reuters laboratory results were sufficiently encouraging to begin testing the protein in September on monkeys infected with a virus similar to AIDS. The synthesised protein was derived from CD4, a large molecule found at the point on the shell of a disease-fighting cell where the AIDS virus attaches itself prior to entering the cell and killing it.

U.S. apologises to Japanese Americans

WASHINGTON (R) — The United States Thursday apologised for the war hysteria and racial prejudice which sent 120,000 Japanese Americans to internment camps during World War II. And agreed to pay the survivors \$20,000 each.

Congress Thursday gave final

approval and sent to President Reagan legislation making the official apology and authorising payments to the estimated 62,000 who are still living.

The bill passed the House of Representatives by a vote of 257 to 156 after passing the Senate